



Editorial

ODA and Human Rights

Less aid for infrastructural projects such as building highways and dams and more for “soft infrastructure” such as education, skills-training and other capability-building activities may now be the new thrust of Japanese official development assistance (ODA) program. Recently, the approval by the World Bank of a loan to China to support a resettlement program for poor Chinese farmers was criticized for violating the bank’s own rule on six-month environmental review, on consulting local residents, and on disclosure of loan information in a timely fashion. The fear that the loan will be used to upset the demographic dominance of Tibetans inside Tibet was also raised.

In the process of reviewing ODA’s role in development, it is time to seriously analyze how they have contributed to human rights violations. How many lands of the farmers, indigenous people and other poor people were lost without due process to development projects funded with ODA? How many people have been illegally detained, injured and even killed by security forces guarding these development projects? How many of these projects mostly benefit well-funded business enterprises, government officials and political leaders rather than the poor who live in the project areas?

It is time for ODA to serve the needs of human rights protection, promotion and realization. Support for “soft infrastructure” may indeed be a much better policy as it directly benefits people. Human rights education falls under this category. Technical support for increasing skills, knowledge and commitment to observing proper procedures for members of police and security forces in dealing with legitimate exercises of rights and freedoms, of curtailing criminal activities, and in securing peace in the community is much needed.

Needless to say, ODA support for strengthening social safety nets is important. But it has to be remembered that as long as development policies remain fiercely free market oriented where only the biggest and the fittest business interests survive, those who are weak will perpetually be in need of ODA support for social safety nets. ODA must therefore be clearly on the side of making ordinary people exercise their right to meaningful existence rather than be a mere protector against the perennial excesses of free market. In sum, ODA needs to serve human rights rather than the markets.

FOCUS Asia-Pacific is designed by HURIGHTS OSAKA as a means of highlighting significant issues and activities relating to human rights in the Asia-Pacific. Relevant information and articles can be sent to HURIGHTS OSAKA for inclusion in the next editions of the newsletter.

FOCUS Asia-Pacific is edited by Dong-hoon Kim, Director of HURIGHTS OSAKA.

Robinson's Message to Asia-Pacific

Opening statement by Ms. Mary Robinson, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights at the Seventh Workshop on Regional Human Rights Arrangements in the Asian and Pacific Region, New Delhi, India, 16-18 February 1999.

It gives me great pleasure indeed to return on this occasion to New Delhi, capital of a country with such an ancient history and culture, and which, from the very outset of the United Nations has championed the cause of freedom and human rights internationally. I am deeply grateful for the efforts made by the Government of India in hosting this Workshop and for all the cooperation extended to us.

As we assemble here today, I am conscious of the diversity and richness of the civilizations and cultures of the countries of Asia and the Pacific, of the historic contributions they have made to the development of the concepts of law and human rights, and of the role they have played in shaping the first-ever global document on human rights, the Universal Declaration.

The principle of cooperation on behalf of human dignity, welfare and rights is an inherent part of the Asia-Pacific experience in general and is exemplified by their participation in the United Nations, including in the Commission on Human Rights. It is this principle of cooperation that brings us together here at this Workshop, the seventh in a series begun in 1990. I am confident that participants in this meeting are united in the beliefs that:

- International human rights standards are universal. Governments are to make every effort to ensure that civil, cultural, economic, political and social rights are respected and promoted;
- All possible efforts must continue to be made to enable the peoples of the region to lead lives in dignity, peace and freedom, consistent with the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;
- Efforts for the promotion and protection of human rights in the region, building on international standards, must be informed and inspired by the richness of the cultures and heritages of the peoples of the region.
- Exchanges of information and experience among Governments in the region on progress and problems being encountered in the implementation of international standards can be helpful. The United Nations, regional organizations and governments of the region can reinforce their mutually beneficial partnerships on behalf of human rights .



Mary Robinson at the Symposium on Human Rights in the Asia-Pacific Region (Third Meeting), Tokyo, Japan, 27-28, January 1999 ©Ministry of Foreign Affairs and The United Nations University

Mr. Minister, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

I am very pleased to have the opportunity to participate for the second consecutive year in this important regional forum which has become a central focus for discussion of initiatives for regional cooperation.

From the documentation before you, it is striking how many initiatives are underway at the national and the regional level for the promotion and protection of human rights. This is precisely the value of these workshops: that countries of the region can come together annually to exchange information on their efforts to identify best practices and to promote regional cooperation on the basis of national experiences. It is particularly gratifying in this regard that national human rights commissions and non-governmental organizations are also participating in this process.

In Tehran, participants agreed to develop regional arrangements for the advancement of human rights through a step-by-step approach and established a framework for regional technical cooperation which emphasizes initiatives at the national and regional level designed specifically to develop: National plans of action; Human rights education; National institutions; and Strategies for the realization of the right to development and economic, social and cultural rights.

With regard to National Plans of Action, my Office is committed to assist, upon request, all governments

from the region to identify strategies designed to develop or strengthen national capacities to promote and protect human rights. This will reflect each government's willingness to translate into action its commitment to the enjoyment of human rights. Such plans can be the concrete reflection of a deliberate policy to promote and protect human rights as well as a useful tool to coordinate between different government departments and authorities in this area.

I should like to emphasize at the outset that my Office is committed to strengthen its capacity to support national governments and institutions in their efforts to promote and protect human rights. To this end I have decided to make available, to the governments of the region, the services of a regional human rights adviser. Based in your region, the regional adviser will, upon request, pay particular attention to actions for human rights education, the development of national plans of action, the enhancement of national capacity in the area of human rights and the implementation of economic, social and cultural rights and the right to development.

I will also continue to pay particular attention to ensuring that your region benefits from all the activities under the programme of technical cooperation in the field of human rights. In 1998, we recorded the highest number of technical cooperation activities, about 200 in over 40 countries worldwide, and the highest level of financial support ever achieved for the voluntary fund for technical cooperation (about \$ 10 million). For 1999, my Office has technical cooperation projects in an advanced stage of formulation in an even larger number of countries, including those of this region, with some of which we have recently signed memoranda of understanding or of intent. It is currently envisaging activities ranging from needs' assessment and formulation missions, support for national human rights plans of action, support for establishing and strengthening national institutions and systems of administration of justice, and support for participation in workshops and other regional and national activities. New methodologies and greater transparency and access to information are also marking the evolution and expansion of the programme in the context of the work of our Office.

The second theme is human rights education: during the Decade, covering the period from January 1995 to December 2004, Governments, international organizations, national institutions, non-governmental organizations, professional associations, all sectors of civil society and individuals are asked to establish partnerships and to concentrate their efforts on promoting a universal culture of human rights through human rights education, training and public information. As coordinator of the Decade on Human

Rights Education, I am committed to furthering its objectives.

In order to accomplish these objectives, efforts have been made to work together with different UN agencies, governments and national institutions. Only last week, my office was represented at the Asia-Pacific Conference on human rights education, organised by UNESCO in Pune, India. On 10 December 1998 - the 50th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights - my Office together with several partners from governmental and non-governmental sectors launched a new section of the website of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, containing more than 250 language versions of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of which many are from the Asia-Pacific region.

This project provides us with an example of what "global partnership for human rights" is about; this partnership whose importance I have stressed repeatedly. In September 1998, the Director-General of UNESCO and I jointly wrote to all Heads of Government, encouraging them in developing national human rights education plans and offering our support; and I am pleased to inform you that our offices have started receiving positive feedback from various countries on their commitment to this important effort and on action taken in this regard.

Regarding National Human Rights Institutions, my Office is currently working to support and strengthen national human rights institutions in more than 40 countries. We are now actively engaged with an increasing number of States in all parts of this vast region: in West Asia; East Asia; South Asia, South East Asia and the Pacific. I have therefore decided to strengthen the efforts of my Office in the area of national institutions to cope with this continued rapid growth in requests for assistance.

National institutions have a critical role to play in human rights education. I have been particularly encouraged by their efforts in this regard and by the attention paid to the human rights aspects of economic and social rights and the various implications of the recent financial crisis in this region at the recent meeting of the Asia-Pacific Forum - an increasingly important focal point for exchange of information and experiences among national institutions. My Office is currently working on resource materials and training programmes aimed at facilitating the integration of economic, social and cultural rights into the work of national institutions. The contributions of national institutions in this region will be especially important to the success of that project.

Working with governments and civil society,

national human rights institutions of the Asia-Pacific have a significant role in protecting those who suffer human rights violations and addressing their root causes.

One area of great concern to me is the trafficking in women and children for purposes of sexual exploitation. I encourage the Governments and institutions present here, and also the Asia-Pacific Forum, which I know has previously focussed attention on this subject, to take up this issue with renewed vigour and commitment. My Office stands ready to work with you in every appropriate way.

Finally, when looking at strategies for the realization of economic, social and cultural rights, my hope is to support pragmatic efforts, based on national experiences, to advance the implementation of these rights concretely. I believe that the Asia-Pacific region has much to offer, I would therefore particularly encourage you to highlight distinctive aspects of your experiences in the implementation of economic, social and cultural rights that can be brought to the attention of the international community. As agreed in Tehran, we intend to organize a series of regional and sub-regional meetings focusing on national experiences with a view to collecting and disseminating the best practices that are to be found in different parts of the world.

This should help make the discussion on the implementation of economic, social and cultural rights more concrete.

One of the highest priorities of my Office is the promotion and implementation of the right to development.

I am aware, in this regard, of the policies being developed for the protection of disadvantaged and deprived segments of the population.

A number of significant initiatives have taken place since our last meeting in Tehran:

- the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between UNDP and my Office in March last year, immediately following the Tehran workshop, which has allowed both organisations to better coordinate their activities, especially in the area of development co-operation.
- the adoption by many entities of the United Nations system of a "rights-based approach" to operational development activities and programmes will also, I hope, have a significant impact on the promotion of the right to development.
- the president of the World Bank's recent statement that "development is not just about sound

budgets and fiscal management. Development is not just about education and health. It is also about empowering people, recognizing the role of women in the society, eliminating corruption, educating the girls and inoculating children. Development is about putting all the component parts in place - together and in harmony".

Mr. Minister, Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

In concluding, let me reiterate that I attach great importance to this workshop and its ability to achieve tangible results for the promotion and protection of human rights in the Asia Pacific region. I would in particular emphasize the following:

1. The strong commitment of my Office to support the implementation of the regional activities foreseen in the framework of cooperation of Tehran and my decision to allocate USD 730,000 for that purpose. The services of the regional adviser will hopefully facilitate progress in these areas.
2. My encouragement to all participating Governments to consider both regional and national initiatives within the broad framework of cooperation agreed upon in Tehran. In this connection, I welcome the intention of the Government of Thailand to jointly host a regional meeting in the middle of this year on one of the four major areas identified in Tehran. A meeting on national human rights action plan would in my view be most timely.
3. My invitation to all of you to identify here in New Delhi - if possible - a candidate for hosting the next Asia-Pacific workshop which will take place in the year 2000 and to consider having inter-sessional consultations by the open-ended working group in Geneva so as to follow-up on the concrete proposals emerging from this meeting.

The goal that has brought us here is to concert our efforts on behalf of the dignity, welfare and rights of the peoples of this region. Let us, by what we do here, help to improve the quality of their lives concretely. Let thus development and progress go hand in hand with freedom, security and the tangible realization of all human rights in their daily lives.

I believe that this regional workshop can help us to advance significantly in the achievement of these objectives.

— oOo —

1999 UN Workshop on Human Rights in Asia-Pacific

Conclusions of the Seventh Workshop on Regional Arrangements for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights in the Asian and Pacific Region

Representatives of Governments of the Asian and Pacific region attending the New Delhi workshop held from 16-18 February 1999,

Recalling the important contributions made by previous workshops and in particular the Framework for Regional Technical Cooperation agreed to at the Tehran workshop, held from 28 February to 2 March 1998,

Reaffirming the universality, indivisibility, interdependence and interrelatedness of all human rights - civil, cultural, economic, political, social - and the right to development,

Recognizing that democracy, development and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms are interdependent and mutually reinforcing,

Committed to enhancing regional cooperation to promote universal respect for, and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Mindful of the vastness of and diversities within the Asian and Pacific region,

Welcoming the participation of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in the New Delhi workshop,

Expressing appreciation for the inspiring addresses of H.E. Mr. Jaswant Singh, Minister of External Affairs, and Ms. Mary Robinson, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, at the opening session of the workshop,

Having reviewed the progress achieved in implementing the regional technical cooperation programme agreed upon in Tehran,

Welcoming the in-depth discussions held during the workshop on the effective realization of the right to development and economic, social and cultural rights and expressing appreciation for the paper presented by Mr. A. Sengupta, the independent expert on the right to development of the Commission on Human Rights,

Reiterate the importance of an inclusive, step-by-step, practical and "building-blocks" approach towards enhancing regional cooperation for the promotion and protection of human rights in accordance with the pace and priorities to be set by the Governments of the region by consensus;

Reaffirm that developing and strengthening national capacities for the promotion and protection of human rights in accordance with national conditions provides the strongest foundation for effective and enduring regional cooperation in the field of human rights;

Call for the mainstreaming and effective coordination of technical cooperation activities in all areas of human rights as an essential element of promotional approaches that build capacity and ensure effective solutions;

Affirm that the primary goal of the process under way is the development of regional cooperation through the building of national capacities and an exchange of experiences within the region, particularly on the basis of the regional technical cooperation programme developed and implemented by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, with the support of the international community through the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation in the Field of Human Rights;

Reaffirm that the central decision-making role in determining the content of the regional technical cooperation programme, evaluating the progress achieved and determining actions to be taken under the programme in the future will continue to be played by the annual intergovernmental workshop with the assistance of the open-ended team in Geneva comprising Geneva-based representatives of the Governments of the Asian-Pacific region;

Recognize that the continuing process of regional cooperation and its practical results are essential to discussions on possible regional arrangements;

Welcome the decision of the High Commissioner to allocate US\$ 730,000 for the implementation of the regional projects foreseen under the Framework for Regional Technical Cooperation for the Asian and Pacific Region adopted in Tehran;

Take note of the decision made by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to make available, at the request of Member States, the services of a regional human rights adviser as a regional project officer in connection with the implementation of technical cooperation in the Asian-Pacific region in accordance with the Framework for Regional Technical Cooperation;

Welcome the reports of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights on the activities carried out since Tehran in the four areas of the Framework for Regional Technical Cooperation;

Welcome the indication provided by the Governments of Thailand and Japan that they would host a regional inter-sessional workshop each in one of the four areas;

(Continued on page 9)

1999 Inter-sessional UN Workshop

Conclusions of the Inter-Sessional Workshop on the Development of National Plans of Actions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights in the Asia-Pacific Region

Representatives of Governments of the Asian and Pacific region attending the Inter-sessional Workshop on National Plans of Action for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights held in Bangkok, Thailand, from 5-7 July 1999:

Recalling the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, which recommended to States to consider the desirability of drawing up a national action plan identifying steps whereby States would improve the promotion and protection of human rights,

Reaffirming the universality, indivisibility, interdependence and interrelatedness of all human rights - civil, cultural, economic, political, social and the right to development,

Recalling that the World Conference on Human Rights in 1993 agreed that the international community must treat human rights globally in a fair and equal manner, on the same footing, and with the same emphasis, and that while the significance of the national and regional particularities and various historical, cultural and religious backgrounds must be borne in mind, it is the duty of States, regardless of their political, economic, and cultural systems to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Reaffirming that, in keeping with the Commission on Human Rights resolution 99/69, developing and strengthening national capacities for the promotion and protection of human rights in accordance with national conditions provides the strongest foundation for effective and enduring regional cooperation in the field of human rights in the Asian and Pacific region.

Recognizing also the importance of an inclusive, step-by-step, practical and building-blocks approach towards enhancing regional cooperation for the promotion and protection of human rights in accordance with the pace and priorities to be set by the Governments of the Asian and Pacific region by consensus,

Reaffirming the importance of all previous workshops' conclusions, in particular those of Tehran and New Delhi, and guided by step-by-step, building blocks approach and renewing its commitment to the promotion and protection of all human rights, including the right to development, in Asian and Pacific region,

Mindful of the vastness and diversities within the Asian and Pacific region,

hereby;

Commit to developing and strengthening national capacities, in accordance with national conditions, for the promotion and protection of human rights plans of action,

Express appreciation to the Government of Thailand

for hosting this workshop on the development of national plans of action for the promotion and protection of human rights and for the statements made by H.E. M.R. Sukhumbhand Paribatra, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs of Thailand as well as the Representative of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Justice P.N. Bhagwati,

Commend the discussions held during the Workshop concerning both the substantive and procedural aspects of developing national human right plans of actions and the contributions made to that and by the resource persons,

Acknowledge that while there are commonalities in the goals and objectives of the national plans of actions for the promotion and protection of human rights, nevertheless principles and methodologies as well as approaches adopted may, in light of national priorities and circumstances, vary from one country to another,

Affirm that inter-sessional workshops, which enable an exchange of information and experiences, are valuable in enhancing regional cooperation and strengthening national capacities in the field of human rights,

Recognise that the development and implementation of national human rights plans of actions, may significantly advance the promotion and protection of human rights,

Affirm that broad national participation has key role in the development, implementation and evaluation of national human rights plan of action,

Encourage all Governments which have not already done so to consider initiating action to develop a national human rights plan of action, in accordance with their national priorities,

Recognize that the plans of action in specific areas contribute towards the development of a national plan of action for the promotion and protection of human rights,

Take note with appreciation of those countries that are already implementing a national human rights plan of action as well as of those that have undertaken similar initiatives,

Express appreciation for the efforts of those countries that are in the process of developing a national human rights plan of action,

Call upon the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to continue to make available, in a timely manner, technical assistance and advisory services

(Continued on page 9)

Framework of Regional Technical Cooperation Programme in Asia and the Pacific

Tehran Workshop (1998)

I. BASIC PROJECT INFORMATION

Region: Asia and the Pacific

Project Title: Strengthening of National Capacities for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights in the Asia-Pacific region as a means of facilitating regional cooperation on human rights and possible regional arrangements

Initial Duration: 3 years

Implementing Agency: Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

Total estimated budget: \$728,500 (including 13 percent programme support costs)

Source(s) of funding: - Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation

- Other extra budgetary funds

- In-kind contributions by host countries of programme activities

II. CONTEXT AND BACKGROUND

Through previous workshops a consensus has been reached on the principles and "step-by-step", "building-blocks" approach involving extensive consultation among Governments of the region, concerning the possible establishment of regional arrangements. It was also agreed that regional arrangements must emerge from and be directed to the needs and priorities set by Governments of the region, with roles, functions, tasks, outcomes and achievements determined by consensus.

In particular, the Amman Workshop concluded that the sharing of information, the establishment of confidence-building measures and the development and strengthening of national capacities for the promotion and protection of human rights are crucial in the step-by-step process towards establishing regional human rights arrangements. The workshop also strongly recommended that a regional technical cooperation programme be

designed and implemented as a matter of urgent priority.

This document is intended to provide a framework for this regional technical cooperation programme, as discussed at the sixth Asia-Pacific Workshop in Tehran. The areas of cooperation proposed in this document draw on the Amman Workshop conclusions as well as on Commission on Human Rights resolution 1997/45.

The annual intergovernmental workshop on regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights in the Asia-Pacific region is the key forum for discussion of initiatives for regional cooperation, including through the technical cooperation programme outlined below. A progress report on technical cooperation activities should be made available by the Secretariat to future workshops so that Member States can assess the progress made in implementing the programme and provide further direction.

III. LONG TERM OBJECTIVE

The programme will contribute to the development and strengthening of national capacities for the promotion and protection of human rights in the Asia-Pacific region and be a means of facilitating further consideration of regional cooperation on human rights, including possible regional arrangements.

IV. AREAS OF TECHNICAL COOPERATION AND SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

1. National Plans of Action for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights and the Strengthening of National Capacities (\$163,800)

Objective:

National capacities will be strengthened in order to develop, implement and evaluate national plans of action for the promotion and protection of human rights.

Activity (a): Preparation of a Compendium of existing practices and practical experiences in connection with national plans of action for human rights;

Activity (b): Provision by OHCHR of technical cooperation and * assistance at the request of Member States for the development of any such national action plans, including the holding, as appropriate, of national workshops to prepare review/finalize/launch such national action plans and related activities aimed at strengthening national capacities;

Activity (c): Holding of a regional intergovernmental workshop** with the participation of representatives of national institutions and NGOs active in this area, to share best practices concerning national action plans.

2. Human Rights Education (\$157,000)

Objective:

National capacities will be strengthened to develop, implement and evaluate national plans of action and other activities for human rights education.

Activity (a): Preparation of a Compendium of existing national plans of action and specific programmes or activities for human rights education;

Activity (b): Provision by OHCHR of technical cooperation and * assistance at the request of Member States for the development of national capacities for human rights education, including the holding, as appropriate, of workshops to consider such activities;

Activity (c): Holding a regional intergovernmental workshop** with the participation of representatives of national institutions and NGOs active in this area, to share best practices concerning such national action plans and related activities;

3. National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights (\$212,200)

Objective:

Capacities of national human rights institutions (or potential capacities of those in the process of being established) will be strengthened - including their capacity to promote economic, social and cultural rights.

Activity (a): Preparation of a Compendium of

existing practices and practical experiences in connection with national human rights institutions;

Activity (b): Provision by OHCHR of technical cooperation and * assistance requested by Member States for the development/strengthening of any such institution;

Activity (c): Holding in cooperation with national institutions, the Asia-Pacific Forum of National Institutions and Member States regional and sub-regional workshops on the role and functions of national institutions in the promotion and protection of all human rights including, in particular, economic, social and cultural rights.

4. Strategies for the Realization of the Right to Development and Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

(\$195,500)

Objective:

Obstacles to the realization of the right to development and economic, social and cultural rights will be identified in the regional context and national and regional capacities for the promotion and realization of those rights will be strengthened.

Activity: Holding of a regional workshop** with governments, and/or national workshops* at the request of Member States, with national economic planning authorities and with the participation of international development and financial institutions as well as development cooperation experts. This (these) workshop(s) will identify obstacles to the realization of those rights in the Asia-Pacific region and propose relevant action to strengthen national capacities for the promotion and realization of those rights.

* Activities at the national level are not costed.

** Venues of regional workshops will be determined in consultation with Member States.

Source: ANNEX II , FURTHER PROMOTION AND ENCOURAGEMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS, INCLUDING THE QUESTION OF THE PROGRAMME AND METHODS OF WORK OF THE COMMISSION (E/CN.4/1998/50 - 12 March 1998)

Terms of Reference for a Regional Human Rights Adviser for the Asia-Pacific Region

Mandate

1. The General Assembly established the programme of advisory services in the field of human rights in its resolution 926 (X) of 14 December 1955.
2. In the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action (Part II, para. 7), "The World Conference on Human Rights recommends that Human Rights officers be assigned if and when necessary to regional offices of the United Nations with the purpose of disseminating information and offering training and other technical assistance in the field of human rights upon the request of concerned Member States ...".

Functions

3. The Regional Human Rights Adviser would provide assistance to countries of the region in connection with the implementation of technical cooperation programmes particularly in the areas referred to in the Framework for Regional Cooperation agreed upon in Tehran; be available for consultation with Governments on technical cooperation-related issues; assist, at the request of

Governments, in developing technical cooperation programmes; participate as a resource person in seminars, workshops and other forums organized by the Governments of the region.

Administrative and logistical arrangements

4. The Regional Adviser would be based in a United Nations office or UNDP regional office in the region (e.g. ESCAP) and provided with basic administrative and secretariat support from within that United Nations or UNDP office.

Budget

5. The Regional Adviser would be funded from the regular technical cooperation budget of the United Nations available to OHCHR. That budget complements assistance available to developing countries under other United Nations programmes.

Source: Annex I, EFFECTIVE FUNCTIONING OF HUMAN RIGHTS MECHANISMS: NATIONAL INSTITUTIONS AND REGIONAL ARRANGEMENTS (E/CN.4/1999/94)

.....

(Continued from page 5, *UN Workshop*)

Call upon the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to establish a Bulletin Board on the regional technical cooperation activities under the Framework for Regional Technical Cooperation;

Decide that the annual regional workshop should take up for in-depth discussion a specific theme, pertaining to one of the four areas identified under the Framework for Regional Technical Cooperation, to be agreed upon by the open-ended team in Geneva;

Call upon the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to develop and implement the proposals made in New Delhi in the four areas in the Framework for Regional Technical Cooperation and to report periodically to the open-ended team in Geneva as well as to the next workshop on the progress achieved.

(End)

.....

(Continued from page 6, *Inter-sessional UN Workshop*)

upon request for the purposes of facilitating the elaboration and the implementation of national human rights plans of action,

Formulate strategies and identify key components and priorities for comprehensive national plans of action in the form of a list of possible elements for step-by-step development of national plans of action for the promotion and protection of human rights as attached herewith to be used for reference purposes by those countries that intend to develop such plans,

Take note of the intention of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to develop a handbook in connection with developing, implementing and evaluating national human rights plans of action, taking into account a list of possible elements as contained in the Annex and the discussions during the Bangkok Workshop.

(End)

The Synthesis of Western and Eastern Thought in Asian Declarations and Constitutions Preceding the 1948 UDHR

Nandini Mascarenhas

During the late 19th and early 20th century, a wave of social reformist sentiment swept through Asia. No longer willing to endure any further social and political oppression at the hands of local and foreign imperialists, the peoples of the region sought to recover and promote what they perceived to be their own inherent rights. The *Burakumin's Suiheisha* Declaration of 1922 (Japan), the Filipinos' *Malolos* Constitution of 1899, and the Indonesian Constitution of 1945 were conceived out of these aspirations. They reflect the regional consensus "on the centrality of human rights to sound and moral government and law" [1] and illustrate Asia's independent initiatives to advance the idea of human rights prior to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948.

The *Suiheisha* Declaration of 1922, the *Malolos* Constitution of 1899, and the Indonesian Constitution of 1945 were all based in varying degrees on the fusion of Western and Eastern thought. The drafters of the documents were of the educated elite and through their cultural interaction with the West they discovered that Western philosophies complemented their own native idealized notions. Consequently, they adapted the philosophies of Marxism, individualism, and integralism "to the context of their nation and lined them with the fundamental convictions of the people in respect to human rights." [2] Although the term human rights was popularized by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948, the philosophy of human being having inherent rights was reflected in all three preceding documents. While the *Suiheisha* Declaration of 1922 marked the beginning of the Buraku Liberation League by uniting all the *Burakumin*, or discriminated people in Japanese society, under the common aspiration of raising their status through social revolution, the *Malolos* and the Indonesian Constitutions created shortly after their respective independence from the European colonial powers of Spain and the Netherlands, reflected for the first time the people's own ideals.

The *Suiheisha* Declaration of 1922, influenced by Marx and Lenin's theory of class conflict, marked the beginning of the Buraku Liberation League. The *Burakumin* had been traditionally Japanese farmers and tanners. Upon the promulgation of the *Social Status Ordinance* in 1591, the *Burakumin* were relegated a rank below the three-tier caste system (warriors, farmers, merchants and artisans). The means to escape their status became impossible during the Tokugawa shogunate regime (1542-1616) when various regulations consigned the *Burakumin* to certain dwelling-places, occupations, land possessions... [3] While the *Emancipation Edict* of 1903, passed under the enlightened Meiji dynasty (1868-1912), abolished the caste system, the elevation of the *Burakumin's* status was countered by an increase in social discrimination due to the failure of the government to ensure social and economic equality for them.[4] The *Burakumin*, like the Untouchables of India, continued to be considered less than human in the eyes of society.

The *Suiheisha* Declaration of 1922 was a rallying cry for the oppressed *Burakumin* to reject the caste system that condemned them to a life without hope: "In rewarding for skinning beasts, they were robbed of live human skin; at the cost of tearing off the hearts of beasts, their own hearts were ripped out...The time has come to be proud of your Eta (humble being)." [5] The declaration emphasized the *Burakumin's* quest for the most basic right of all: the inherent right to life: "all through the cursed nights of evil dreams, their (ancestors') human blood full of pride kept flowing. We find ourselves in the age when we inherit their qualities by this blood, are going to become godlike." [6] Jiichiro Matsumoto, the leader of the *Suiheisha* Movement and a member of the Japanese Communist Party, incorporating Marxism in the context of the *Buraku* movement, did not espouse violent revolution, and instead sought the public self-criticism of individuals, who were found guilty of discrimination by the *Buraku* struggle committees. [7]

Marxism served to enhance the Buddhist philosophy found at the heart of the *Suiheisha* Declaration of 1922 that called for the enlightenment of all people: "Let there be light upon all mankind!" [8] In this state the *Burakumin* believed they could endure criticism and ill treatment with extraordinary patience. Through enlightenment, they would find a release from suffering and be freed from the social burden of their status.

While the *Burakumin* in Japan had been influenced by Marx to rise in defiance of social incarceration, the *Malolos* Constitution of 1899 echoed the truths of Hobbes and Locke. The propagandists, responsible for converting the social reformist movement from a few individuals to the aspirations of the masses, fused Western and Eastern thought, in the form of Christianity that had amassed a devout following in the Philippines and become an integral aspect of the native culture. Apolinario Mabini, a Filipino nationalist, expounding on the ideas of Jose Rizal and Emilio Jacinto, declared that the "right to life, the equality of men, and the right to happiness, were all inalienable, having God as the ultimate source." [9] According to the natural laws, God gave rights to the people and therefore it was the obligation of the government, God's representative on Earth, to preserve these rights.

However, for three centuries, the Spanish friars in the Philippines had failed to uphold Hobbes' Social Contract by abusing the powers entrusted to them by the Spanish government to administer the people and the land. They "physically and intellectually attempted to isolate the Filipinos from the outside world in order that they would not receive any impression other than which was convenient for them to have." [10] The friars denied them a means of livelihood and income by usurping their cultivated lands through unlawful means thereby coming into possession of 48 percent of the total agricultural land of "Cavite, Laguna, Manila Province, Bulacan, and Morong." [11] They refused to educate the Filipinos especially in the area of foreign languages. The people, therefore, could not express their desires and anxieties directly to the government but were dependent on the friars as intermediaries. As a result, a strong belief pervaded among the native population of the perversion of Christianity by the friars: "instead of being examples of Christian conduct to their flock in the town

over which to rule; they are the embodiment of scandal because of their vices." [12] They acted in their own interests driven by a greed for wealth and power, corrupting the native concept of *loob*, purity of intention and feeling. The *Malolos* Constitution liberated the people from the "frailocracy" by returning all usurped property to the government and guaranteeing the right to an education, and representation for the common people. This transformation of *loob* ensured "enlightenment, prosperity, and true brotherhood" for the Filipinos. [13]

While European culture had superimposed itself on the indigenous culture of the Philippines during the three centuries of colonial rule, resulting in its constitutional identity being more Western than Eastern in thought, the Japanese occupation of Indonesia had the opposite effect on its constitution. The Japanese Asiafication of the Indonesian archipelago, under its Greater East Asia Co-prosperity Sphere plan, consisted of the use of Malay as the main language, the promotion of the native literature, and the practice of relying on *priyayi*, local indigenous elite, to rule the countryside. This had great cultural and political implications on the constitutional identity of Indonesia. Not only was the indigenous way of life promoted in its constitution but the Indonesians also gained experience in ruling their people, a role denied to the Filipinos by the Spanish friars.

The Indonesian Constitution, therefore, emphasized the Asian conceptualization of the existence of an individual as part of a larger group or community rather than as a single entity as in Western society. The drafters of the Indonesian Constitution believed that integralism that treated the state as "an integral arrangement of the society, where every region, every group, and every member of society is interrelated with all the others in the organic whole as the most appropriate for the Indonesian context." [14] They fused the complementary Western and Eastern philosophies by basing the state on Pancasila "democracy guided by the wisdom arising from consultation and representation, which shall ensure social justice for the whole Indonesian people." [15] They elected the people to the highest constitutional body, the People's Consultative Assembly (*Majelis Permusjawaratan Rakjat* or MPR), regardless of their property or wealth status, and implemented

the rule that all groups must be consulted before a decision could be passed in order to rectify what they perceived to be the flaws of the western and individualistic form of representation.

According to the Pancasila democracy, the state was to be based on unity and religion. The western philosophy of integralism was fused with the dominant native religion in order to create a state that protected the interests of the whole community where Islam was not the state religion, but rather recognized as the dominant religion: "the state should be based on Belief in the One Supreme God according to a just and civilized humanitarianism." [16] Freedom of worship was granted to acknowledge Indonesia's diverse belief systems resulting from the colonization of Indonesia by various European powers. Islam was considered fundamental in the promotion of human rights in the everyday lives of the people: "the just service of Allah" ensures free national life. [17]

Integralism was also adapted to enhance the concept of *royong-goyong* or mutual self-help in regards to economic rights. For centuries, the common people had been subjugated under European powers. Soekarno, the leader of the Indonesian struggle, detested the era of colonial exploitation and "envisioned a future Indonesia freed from dependence on foreign capital: a community of classless and happy *Marhaens* (farmers), rather than the greedy (Western-style) individualists, that reflect the traditional idealized notion of *royong-goyong*." [18] He incorporated Article 33 in the Constitution: "The economy shall be organized as the cooperative endeavor based on the principle of family life." [19]

Different historical backgrounds and specific needs to grapple with unjust social constructions of the time explain the variance in the degree of Western influence on the constitutional identities of the Asian nations in regard to human rights. While the concept of human rights in the Japanese *Suiheisha* Declaration of 1922 and the Indonesian Constitution of 1945 was based to a greater extent on the native culture with selective adaptations of western ideas, the *Malolos* Constitution of 1899 was based heavily on western ideas, complemented by a few adaptations of uniquely native Philippine concepts. It is interesting to note that today however there is an increased recognition of human rights

in Japan, which can be attributed to its rapid westernization begun during the Meiji era. On the other hand, the western influence on the constitutional identities of the Philippines and Indonesia have ironically diminished as they have, after centuries of colonial rule, undergone a period of indigenous development in which their native idealized notions in regards to human rights have strongly emerged. [20]

End Notes

1. Beer, L. (ed.), 1992. "Constitutionalism in Asia and the United States", in *Constitutional Systems in the Late Twentieth Century Asia*, (Seattle and London: University of Washington Press, 1992) p. 1.
2. Wahjono, P. (ed.), 1992. "Democracy in Indonesia: Pancasila Democracy", in *Constitutional Systems in Late Twentieth Century Asia*, *ibid.*
3. This is also known as denunciation (*kyudan*).
4. Suginora, J. *The Status of Discrimination in Japan: Introduction to the Buraku Problem* (Kobe: The Hyogo Institute of Buraku Problem, 1982), p.11.
5. *Ibid.*, p. 19.
6. *Ibid.*, p. 59.
7. *Ibid.*, p. 59.
8. *Ibid.*, p. 59.
9. Majul, C. A., *The Political and Constitutional Ideas of the Philippine Revolution* (Quezon City: University of the Philippine Press, 1996), p. 37.
10. *Ibid.*, p. 122.
11. *Ibid.*, p. 139.
12. *Ibid.*, p. 129.
13. Quejada II and Obinario, 1997. "Cultural Values and Human Rights: The Philippine Perspective", in *Human Rights in Asian Cultures - Continuity and Change*, (Osaka: HURIGHTS OSAKA, 1997), p. 202.
14. Wahjono, p. 463. See also Johan Ferdinand "Human Rights and Javanese Ethics," in *Human Rights in Asian Cultures - Continuity and Change*, *op cit*, which discusses the debate among the drafters of the 1945 Constitution on whether to adopt individualism or integralism as a basic political philosophy.
15. Preamble, "The Indonesian Constitution of 1945" translated by Lev, D. S. in *Constitutional Systems in Late Twentieth Century Asia*, *op. cit.*
16. Wahjono, p. 463.
17. Beer, p. 17.
18. "Indonesia: Sukarno and the Nationalist Movement" E-Conflict World Encyclopedia. 1997-98. Online Internet. <http://www.emulateme.com/history/indonhist.htm>.
19. Lev, p. 505.
20. Beer, pp. 6-7.

Events

Recently-Held Events

1. The Third World Network (TWN), UNIFEM and Tebtebba Foundation jointly organized the workshop on "Asian/Global Economic Crisis and People's Responses" in Manila on August 9-11, 1999. The aims of the workshop were: (i) to discuss current issues arising from the globalization process, the global economic crisis and the economic and social consequences and people's responses to them; (ii) to build the capacity of NGOs (including women's organizations) and researchers in the affected countries to analyze and respond to the economic crisis and to finance and trade issues; and (iii) to discuss follow-up cooperation in monitoring and responding to the crisis. For further information contact: Third World Network, 87 Cantonment Road, 1025 Penang, Malaysia, ph (604) 373612/373 511, fax (604) 226-4505; e-mail: TWNET@PO.JARING.MY, TWPEN@TWN.PO.MY, TWN@IGC.APC.ORG

2. The 4th annual meeting of the Asia-Pacific Forum of National Human Rights Institutions was held on September 6-8, 1999 in Manila. For further information contact: Mr. Kieren Fitzpatrick, Asia-Pacific Forum of National Human Rights Institutions, c/o Australian Human Rights Commission, Level 8 Piccadilly Tower, 133 Castlereagh Street, Sydney NSW 2000 Australia, ph (612) 9284-96 44, fax (612) 9284-9825, e-mail: apf@hrec.gov.au; website: www.apf.hrec.gov.au

3. The 3rd Civicus World Assembly was held on 21-24 September in Manila. With the theme 'Towards a new civil society: the changing roles of civil society organizations, business & government.' For more information contact: Civicus World Alliance for Citizen Participation, 919 18th Street, 3rd Floor, NW-Washington, DC 20006, USA; ph (1) (202) 331 85 18; fax: (1) (202) 331 87 74; e-mail: info@civicus.org; http://www.civicus.org

Events

1. The Alliance for a Responsible and United World - Asia-Pacific and ACFOD will hold a workshop with the theme "Interwovenness and Convivial Societies" on October 5-8, 1999 in Bangkok. The workshop will discuss the experiences in attempting to create an "alternative within development." But it will also concentrate on the "alternatives to development" which "rejects the development paradigm altogether and falls back on the inspirations that can be drawn from indigenous peoples, organic farming, the ideas of Mahatma Gandhi and Masanobu Fukuoka, Zen, tao and non-institutional inspirations from Asian religions and spiritualities." For more information contact: Asian Cultural Forum on Development (ACFOD) 494, Soi 11, Lardprao 101, Klongchan, Bangkok, Bangkok 10240 Thailand or P.O Box. 26, Bungthonglang P.O. Bangkok 10242 Thailand, ph (662) 370-2701; 377-9357, fax (662) 374-0464, e-mail: acfod@ksc15.th.com

2. The 1999 Seoul International Conference of NGOs will be held in Seoul on October 10-15, 1999. This year's conference, having the theme "The Role of NGOs in the 21st Century, will monitor and explore the implementation of commitments made by the United Nations member-states at major world conferences over the past decade, strengthen NGO partnerships with the UN and its agencies for improved policy dialogue, provide an opportunity for enhanced communication and collaboration among national, regional and international

NGOs. For further information contact: Korea Organizing Committee, # 305 Wonseo Bldg., 171 Wonseo-dong, Chongno-gu, Seoul 110-280 Korea, ph (822) 762-2323, fax (822) 762-9833, e-mail: kocngo@ngo99korea.org, website: www.ngo99korea.org

3. A conference on "Legal Aid and Public Interest Lawyering in East and Southeast Asian Countries" will be held on December 16-17, 1999 in Tokyo. This conference will examine experiences on legal aid, public interest lawyering and university clinical programs on legal aid in Japan, Korea, Thailand, Laos, Vietnam, Cambodia and the Philippines. This conference is jointly being organized by Kobe University, the Japan Foundation Center for Global Partnership, University of Wisconsin East Asian Legal Studies Center, University of Wisconsin Asian Partnership Initiative, Japan Federation of Bar Associations and Japan Legal Aid Association. For more information contact: Louise G. Trubek, Law School, University of Wisconsin - Madison, Madison, Wisconsin, USA, ph (608) 262-5914, fax (608) 262-5485, e-mail: lgrubek@facstaff.wisc.edu

4. The 10th Annual Training for Human Rights Activists from the Asia-Pacific by the Diplomacy Training Program (DTP) will be held on 24 January - 11 February 2000 at the Law School, Northern Territory University, Darwin, Australia. The training program entitled "Human Rights and Peoples' Diplomacy" invites men and women human rights activists, particularly from Asia-Pacific countries and indigenous Australia. Priority is given to women and indigenous peoples. Participants are expected to have a basic understanding of English.

Write or e-mail the DTP for an application form or fill out an application form on its website: Executive Director, Diplomacy Training Program, Faculty of Law, University of New South Wales, Sydney 2052 Australia, ph (612) 9385 2277/2807, fax: (612) 9385 1778, e-mail: dtp@unsw.edu.au, www.law.unsw.edu.au/centres/dtp

5. The ISPCAN 5th Asian Conference on Child Protection: Protecting Children in the 21st Century: Creating Peace and Stability for Children and Families will be held on November 25-27, 1999 in Hong Kong. For further information contact: The Federation of Medical Societies of Hong Kong, 4F, Duke of Windsor Social Service Building, 15 Hennessy Road, Wanchai, Hong Kong, ph (852) 2527-8898; fax (852) 2866-7530, e-mail: sigfmshk@netvigator.com, http://www.info.gov.hk/swd/english/info/news/index1.htm

6. FORUM ASIA and ARRC are organizing a regional HRE conference with the theme "Development and Implementation of the Regional Response to the UNDHRE and the Role of Civil Society." The conference aims to support the development of national plans of action for the UN Decade. Experiences of countries which have developed national plans of action will be presented in the conference to encourage other governments and members of the civil society to develop and implement their own plans. The conference also aims to create a monitoring mechanism for this purpose. The conference is scheduled on November 12-13, 1999 in Nepal. For more information contact: FORUM ASIA: 109 Suthisarnwinichai Road, Samsenok, Huaykwang, Bangkok 10320 Thailand, ph (662) 2769826 to 27, fax (662) 6934939, e-mail: CHALIDA@MOZART.INET.CO.TH

Dolls and Dust

Dolls and Dust provides a timely forum for women workers in three sub-regions of Asia to communicate with you -- "bottom-up" -- in their own voices and in their own languages and from their realities at the grassroots about the impact of industrial restructuring, globalization and "mal(e)-development" on their lives, communities and the environment.

Under patriarchal socialization, girls play with dolls. Some grow out of it. Some become "dolls" themselves for others. Women workers in Asia also have to make dolls for a living. Many, like the women workers in the Kader doll factory in Thailand, even have to die for it! When not so young, women workers become dispensable and disposable -- when employers want to cut costs or when politicians and the IMF want to "free" or "liberalize" our economy. Women workers all over Asia continue being chained and trampled upon routinely as dust. Many women worker leaders have been tortured and murdered -- returning to the earth and becoming dust themselves...

In Sri Lanka, the impoverization of the rural sector under the WB/IMF's "Structural Adjustment Programme" has forced many young women to work in factories in the Free Trade Zones where they have to tolerate very exploitative work and living conditions. In Thailand, women workers are organizing themselves for better "occupational health and safety" and resisting the "bitter medicine" that the IMF and the present Thai government have imposed upon

them. With the internationalization of labor and capital over the past decade in South Korea, many women workers have lost their jobs as Korean factories relocate to Indonesia, Vietnam, etc., in search of more "docile" and cheaper labor to exploit. The Korean women workers' movement which played a pivotal role in laying the foundation of the Korean labor movement now finds that women workers are the first to be retrenched -- on the basis of their gender -- as South Korea remains under the "intensive care unit" of the IMF "hospital".

Despite many difficulties, women workers in Asia are resisting and organizing for change...

This 60-minute video is structured in three parts (approx. 17 minutes each) to depict each of the sub-regions and is subtitled and narrated in English with the accompanying voices of the women in Singhala, Tamil, Thai and Korean languages. Other versions with subtitles and/or narration in the following languages are/would be available this year: Thai, Korean, Singhala, Japanese, Bahasa Indonesia, Cantonese & Mandarin Chinese, Nepali, Tagalog, Hindi, Urdu and Bengali.

Dolls and Dust is produced by the Committee for Asian Women (CAW), a regional-level NGO that focuses on gender and labor issues in Asia. CAW works with 28 network groups consisting of women worker organizations, women committees of trade unions, women NGOs and those concerned with women as well as women workers in 13 countries spanning the 3 sub-regions in Asia: Northeast (Hong Kong, Japan, South Korea, Taiwan); Southeast (Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand); and South Asia (Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Pakistan).

Researched, directed and videographed by WAYANG between August 1996 and June 1998 in Sri Lanka, Thailand and South Korea (with additional footage from Japan, Hong Kong and China), *Dolls and Dust* is perhaps the first video documentary to present "the other faces and voices" of women workers in Asia in relation to the ongoing crises in the region.

"Wayang" means image. However, in Malaysia and Indonesia, the term is more notably used together with another as "Wayang Kulit" -- meaning a lively, musical, shadow play. In the Chinese language, "Waying" is closely associated with picture, image or shadow. Both WaYING and WaYANG, in essence, mean the same in these popular languages. As an alternative communication group, WAYANG seeks to visualize that which is "shadowed" or repressed -- to communicate people's experiential knowledge and local wisdom; and to share moving images that seek to move people, in solidarity, towards more balance (yin and yang), justice and creativity in the existing communication disorder...

Dolls and Dust was premiered and selected as an award-winning entry from Asia on "The Right to Communicate and the Communication of Rights" during the 4th International VideOlympiade held at the auditorium of the South African Broadcasting Corporation in Cape Town, South Africa (September 18-21, 1998). Towards minimizing as much as possible the element of "competition" among the numerous entries from 25 countries, no "first prize" was awarded -- only the 10 best submissions were selected for the 1998 VideOlympiade awards.

(Continued on page 15)

The aim of the VideOlympiade is to promote equality and creativity in the field of local television and community video creation. The 1st Video and TV Olympiade was held in conjunction with the Winter Olympics in Albertville, France, in 1992, and attracted 250 delegates participating from 24 countries. The 2nd Olympiade took place in 1994 in Scandinavia aboard a ferry, the Kristina Regina, travelling between Denmark, Sweden and Norway with 250 delegates from 29 countries. The 3rd Olympiade took place at Paulo Freire's Instituto Cajamar in Sao Paulo, Brazil, in 1996.

The 4th VideOlympiade was held in conjunction with the International Conference and General Assembly of VIDEAZ-IMUT, an international NGO that is

now present in over 45 countries and connects approximately 12,000 communication activists who work from their own communities, regional organizations or even global ones, to build diversity and promote the democratic practice of audiovisual communication for development.

Dolls and Dust is available at the subsidized price of US\$25 per VHS/PAL copy (cash & carry sale only); or US\$40 per VHS/PAL copy (inclusive of postage, packing, registration fee and bank charges)

Please make your cheque payable to CAW Ltd. and send it to: Committee for Asian Women, Unit E, 4/F, Skyline Tower, 18 Tong Mi Road, Kowloon, Hong Kong. Fax: (852) 2369-9895 E-mail: cawhk@hk.super.net

For orders after August 1999, please also e-mail: waying@yahoo.com

Limited copies of *Dolls and Dust* would be made available at a specially reduced price or even on a complimentary/exchange basis to certain impecunious groups in the South (and in exceptional cases, in the North as well). Copies in both PAL and NTSC Betacam SP format are also available where required.



Subregional Training Workshops

HURIGHTS OSAKA in collaboration with several institutions has started preparations for the Northeast and South Asia training workshops. They form part of the series of training workshops that HURIGHTS OSAKA is holding for the current fiscal year. The first training workshop was the pilot teacher training workshop held for Southeast Asia in May this year. These training workshops are held at the subregional level to be able to focus on similar issues and experiences among the participating countries.



Teaching demonstration at a local high school in Bali (Southeast Asia pilot training workshop)

For the Northeast Asia training workshop, HURIGHTS OSAKA is collaborating with the Korean National Commission for UNESCO and the Ministry of Education of Korea. A preparatory meeting was held in Seoul on June 18-19, 1999 to discuss the program of the training workshop and the necessary preparatory activities. The training workshop aims to get the participation of different education officials (curriculum developers, trainers, school administrators, district education officials, teachers) and related NGO workers from south Korea, Japan, China, Mongolia and hopefully north Korea. The training workshop is planned to be held in early December 1999 in Seoul.

The South Asia training workshop is now also under preparation. A preparatory meeting was also held in Nepal on September 7-9, 1999 with the participation of representatives of institutions in Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. The meeting discussed possible program for the training workshop which is planned to be held in Colombo early next year. There will be participants from the government education institutions, schools and NGOs. The Centre for the Study of Human Rights and the Sri Lankan Ministry of Education are the main collaborating institutions for the South Asia training workshop.

The support of the UN through the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights is being sought for both training workshops.

HURIGHTS OSAKA ACTIVITIES

HURIGHTS OSAKA will celebrate its 5th anniversary by holding a public forum in Osaka. The forum with the theme "Globalization of the Local Communities and Human Rights in Asia – Building a Network Between My Community and Asia" will be held on November 25th. A presentation on the activities of HURIGHTS OSAKA for the past five years, a speech by an officer from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Japan) on the role of Japan in promoting human rights in Asia, and a panel discussion on human rights in Asia and the future role of HURIGHTS OSAKA will constitute the forum program.



PRINTED MATTER

AIR MAIL

May be opened for inspection by the postal service.

HURIGHTS OSAKA, inspired by the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, formally opened in December 1994. It has the following goals: 1) to promote human rights in the Asia-Pacific region; 2) to convey Asia-Pacific perspectives on human rights to the international community; 3) to ensure inclusion of human rights principles in Japanese international cooperative activities; and 4) to raise human rights awareness among the people in Japan to meet its growing internationalization. In order to achieve these goals, HURIGHTS OSAKA has activities such as Information Handling, Research and Study, Education and Training, Publications, and Consultancy Services.



HURIGHTS OSAKA

HURIGHTS OSAKA

(Asia-Pacific Human Rights Information Center)

1-2-1-1500, Benten, Minato-ku, Osaka 552-0007 Japan

Phone: (816) 6577-3578 Fax: (816) 6577-3583

E-mail: webmail@hurights.or.jp

Web site: <http://www.hurights.or.jp>