



Editorial

Human Rights Accountability

The 1992 Hawaii court decision declaring former Philippine President, Ferdinand E. Marcos, responsible for causing forced disappearances, summary execution and torture was unprecedented. It awarded compensation to some 10,000 Filipino victims. The full implementation of the decision however encountered legal problems.

Recently, a special Indonesian human rights court started hearing the complaint against former East Timor provincial government officials as well as military officers for the violence in East Timor during the 1999 independence vote. Cases are expected to be filed before the Cambodian court against some of the former top leaders of Khmer Rouge. Whether these cases will give justice to the East Timorese and Cambodian victims of human rights violations is still to be seen. Some doubt the capability of domestic courts in Asia to dispense justice to human rights violation victims especially when influential persons are involved. If the domestic courts fail, where will the victims go?

Probably the International Criminal Court is an answer. But this court can only cover States that have ratified the Rome Statute, which will create it. It will also be covering crimes committed after its establishment. In any case, Asian States have to show their commitment to human rights by helping make the International Criminal Court start doing its job at the soonest time possible. Ratifying the Rome Statute is an essential first step.

FOCUS Asia-Pacific is designed to highlight 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.

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Asian Campaign on the Rome Statute Ratification¹

HURIGHTS OSAKA

As more and more States ratify the Rome Statute, will Asian States follow suit? In the Pacific, Fiji, New Zealand, Marshall Islands, and Nauru have already ratified the Rome Statute.

Cambodia's National Assembly approved in late November 2001 the bill for the ratification of the Rome Statute that will create the International Criminal Court (ICC). This approval however needs the concurrence of the Senate and the signature of the King to complete the ratification process. Thailand and the Philippines are the two other countries in Southeast Asia that are expected to ratify the treaty soon. In South Asia, only Bangladesh is expected to ratify the treaty. Whether or not these countries will become part of the first sixty countries ratifying the Rome Statute (to make it effective) is still to be seen.

Thai NGOs along with the Criminal Law Institute of Thailand under the Office of the Attorney General, and the Thai Working Group for an ASEAN Human Rights Mechanism (TWG) held a national workshop entitled "The International Criminal Court and Thai Society" on 24-25 December 2001 in Bangkok. NGO workers, government officials, lawyers and other individuals attended the conference. An inter-agency committee formed by the government is at the last stage of review of the treaty. It will send its findings to the Thai parliament later on.

In the Philippines, the Inter-Agency Task Force on the Establishment of the International Criminal Court, created on 24 March 1998 by the government (Administrative Order No. 387 series of 1998) continues to meet. It reportedly supports the ratification of the Rome Statute. This Task Force is composed of the Department of Foreign Affairs, Department of Justice, Office of the Solicitor General, Office of the Executive Secretary/Office of the Chief Presidential Legal Counsel, Department of Interior and Local Government, and the University of the Philippines - College of Law. It has the following functions and duties:

- a. Undertake studies and researches pertaining to the proposed establishment of the ICC;
- b. Formulate policy recommendations to serve as inputs in the review and consolidation of the Philippine Government's position in the Preparatory

Committee meetings at the ICC and the United Nations General Assembly;

- c. Identify and recommend legislative measure necessary in the furtherance of the foregoing;
- d. Serve as a forum for resolution of issues and concerns pertaining to the establishment of the ICC;
- e. Pursue other related functions which may be deemed necessary by the President.

Philippine NGOs are lobbying Philippine legislators to hasten the process of ratifying the Rome Statute.

In Indonesia, a national workshop on ICC and an international conference on crimes against humanity were reportedly held in June 2001 calling on the government to ratify the Rome Statute. The KOMNASHAM along with the NGOs have been lobbying for the ratification of the treaty. Several serious problems of the country may however get more attention from the government at present.

A national workshop on ICC held in November 2001 in Vientiane led to the plan to form a working group on ICC. This working group will send proposals for the ratification of the treaty to the Laotian Ministry of Justice and to the parliament. The government has not so far made a commitment to ratify the treaty.

Working groups on ICC have reportedly been formed in Singapore and Brunei. A workshop will be held in Singapore in 2002.

In Northeast Asia, South Korea and Mongolia are seen as possibly able to ratify the treaty in the near future. It is reported that the South Korean government has initiated discussions on the issue. Korean NGOs, on the other hand, are doing lobby work and public awareness campaigns.

In Mongolia, some influential members of Parliament as well as the Prime Minister already officially referred in 2001 the Rome Statute for ratification in the Parliament.² The newly-established National Human Rights Commission of Mongolia is planning some activities to promote the ratification of the Rome Statute during the first quarter of 2002.³ On 22-23 January 2002, the Center for Human Rights and Development (CHRD) along with the Amnesty International in Mongolia, Asian Forum for Human

Rights and Development, National Human Rights Commission, Ministry of Justice and Internal Affairs and Ministry of Foreign Affairs organized a "National Workshop on Human Rights and International Criminal Court." The workshop discussed the ICC history, crimes covered by ICC, gender justice, mechanisms and the process leading to the establishment of the ICC, role of victims/survivors, ICC and Mongolian National Law, and prospects for ratification of the Rome Statute. Representatives of the organizing institutions as well as those of the Constitutional Court, State Great Khural (Parliament) Chancellery, Mongolian Revolutionary Party, Mongolian National Democratic Party, universities, and NGOs attended the workshop.

The Japan Network on International Criminal Court (JNICC) continues its dialogue with government officials and legislators on the ratification of the Rome Statute. It is considering the submission of a proposal on the ratification of the treaty that would not require the enactment of a new law (specifically on the conduct of war). Other NGOs such as the Japanese section of Amnesty International, on the other hand, are continuing with their media campaign and other activities on the ICC. The Japanese section of Amnesty International held in March 2002 in Tokyo a meeting entitled "ICC Countdown" where presentations on the Holocaust, gender justice and child rights were made. Japanese NGO representatives see the need for an ICC campaign that involves many more NGOs.

China is reportedly not interested in ratifying the Rome Statute. It is also reported that a group of Chinese academics is organizing small workshops on the ICC at the Beijing University.

In South Asia, India seems to be in almost the same situation as that of China.

With the change of government leaders, it may take time before substantive discussion on the ratification of the Rome Statute takes place in Bangladesh. In Nepal, the new emergency situation may prevent the government from giving attention to the Rome Statute. A national workshop, however, was held in 2001 where members of the ruling political party made initial commitment to sponsor in the parliament the ratification of the treaty.

In Central Asia, Kyrgyzstan, and Iran, have signed the Rome Statute. It is hoped that they will join Tajikistan in ratifying the treaty later on.

Asian NGOs campaigning for the ICC have already translated the Rome Statute into eight languages, namely, Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Bahasa Indonesia, Thai, Lao, Filipino and Khmer. Mongolian and

Vietnamese versions are still being prepared.

A Regional Experts' Meeting on the International Criminal Court was held in Bangkok on 11-12 September 2001. This meeting reviewed the status of international human rights treaties in Asia, some initiatives in addressing the problem of impunity in the region, and the regional campaign for the ratification of the Rome Statute. It was attended mainly by NGO representatives.

On 16-18 October 2001, the Experts Conference on International Criminal Court was held in Manila with the participation of European experts and government representatives. Experts involved in the drafting of the Rome Statute explained the various aspects of the treaty. Officials of the Ministries of Justice or Offices of the Attorney General, and Judges of the High Courts represented countries from Southeast Asia and the Pacific.

This conference aimed to provide a "uniform level of familiarity and knowledge of the ICC among senior government officials in Southeast Asia and a number of Pacific States." The organizers further assert that the idea of holding the conference "stems from an assumption that only when a thorough understanding of the statute - its implications on various constitutions and judicial systems in the domestic level - will there be a groundswell of support for the immediate establishment of the International Criminal Court."

Prospect of ratification in Asia

The ratification of the Rome Statute by countries in Asia will certainly hinge on the way domestic laws are linked to the provisions of the treaty. The countries that have ratified the Rome Statute faced the same issue. In the context of New Zealand, where existing domestic laws cover some of the provisions of the Rome Statute, three options were available:⁴

a. To do nothing more

It could be argued that it was not necessary to create more [offences]. There were existing offences that could be relied on. Any new offences were unlikely to be used in practice (the offence in the Geneva Conventions Act has never been used). If a situation did arise, and there were no appropriate domestic offences, the ICC would have jurisdiction to deal with the case. In other words, New Zealand could take the risk that a situation might arise where it had no choice but to defer to the ICC.

b. To create new offences in same terms as the Rome Statute

This option involves adopting the same approach as in the Geneva Conventions Act. One advantage of

this approach is that it ensures that the domestic offence is identical to the international crime and, therefore, that a New Zealand prosecution could lie for all the conduct covered by articles 6 to 8. On the other hand, crimes in international instruments tend to be drafted with less precision than domestic offences. Generally speaking, the more precision the better the criminal legislation because the defendant would receive the benefit of any ambiguity.

- c. To create new offences after a general review of this area of law

This option involves the creation of new offences but, rather than simply replicating the crimes in the Rome Statute, offences that are more 'indigenous' in nature could be created. This need not involve substantive changes, if appropriate. Articles 6 to 8 [of the Rome Statute] include a number of some compromises. A review might result in new offences being devised that better reflect New Zealand's view of this area of law, for example, by extending or changing the scope of some offences and removing the vagueness or uncertainty in others.

New Zealand eventually chose option b because a review (option c) would "take time and be resource intensive...[and] any changes proposed to be made to particular crimes could themselves lead to debate." Thus option b facilitated New Zealand's early ratification (September 7, 2000) but does not "preclude option c being considered in the longer term, especially if other states take that approach in their implementing legislation."⁵

Legal experts in Mongolia, on the other hand, believe that since many of the crimes under the Rome Statute are covered by the new Mongolian criminal law (enacted in January 2002), the ratification of the treaty would not be difficult.⁶

In Japan, government as well as legislative circles seem to hold the view that ratification of the Rome Statute will only occur if relevant domestic laws have been enacted. It is thought that a law regarding the conduct of war would be needed. Japanese NGOs do not subscribe to this view since enacting this law may mean requiring an amendment of the Constitution (specifically Article 9, which "forever" renounces war as a sovereign right).⁷

In a State where the legal system is still in a stage of development, ratification of the Rome Statute poses a difficulty. This is a view expressed about Laos. It is feared that the Laotian government may not be able to comply with the obligations under the treaty due to many legal issues regarding domestic laws and the jurisdiction of the Laotian courts over crimes covered by the Rome Statute.⁸

Other legal issues can be raised by Asian States regarding the ratification of the Rome Statute. But with fifty-six States as of March 2002 ratifying the Rome Statute, the pressure to become part of the first sixty ratifications builds up.

This is the challenge facing the campaign for the ratification of the Rome Statute in Asia.

Endnotes

1. Some portions of this article are based on a report dated 29 November 2001 sent by Ms. Evelyn Serrano, Asian Coordinator of the NGO Coalition on ICC, to the coalition's main office.
 2. See S. Narangerel, *ICC and the Mongolian National Law*, paper presented at the National Workshop on Human Rights and International Criminal Court (Ulaanbaatar, 22-23 January 2002).
 3. Letter of S. Tserendorj, Chief Commissioner, National Human Rights Commission of Mongolia, dated 2 January 2002, to Jefferson R. Plantilla (HURIGHTS OSAKA).
 4. Juliet Hay, *Ratification and Implementation of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court - The New Zealand Experience*, paper presented at the Experts Conference on International Criminal Court (Manila, 16-18 October 2001).
 5. *Ibid.*
 6. See Narangerel *op cit.* and S. Tserendorj, *Prospects of Ratification of Rome Statute by Mongolia*, paper presented at the National Workshop on Human Rights and International Criminal Court (22-23 Ulaanbaatar, January 2002).
 7. The Japanese Constitution, which took effect on May 3, 1947, provides in Chapter II, Renunciation of War, Article 9, the following:
 - a. Aspiring sincerely to an international peace based on justice and order, the Japanese people forever renounce war as a sovereign right of the nation and the threat or use of force as means of settling international disputes.
 - b. In order to accomplish the aim of the preceding paragraph, land, sea, and air forces, as well as other war potential, will never be maintained. The right of belligerency of the state will not be recognized.
- These texts are taken from Hiroshi Oda, ed., *Basic Japanese Laws*, Oxford University Press (Oxford: 1997), page 5.
- A recent newspaper report states that one political party (Minshuto) is proposing an amendment of the preamble and Article 9 of the Constitution or their reinterpretation in order to allow Japan to actively participate in the UN peacekeeping operations. ("Minshuto advocates review of Article 9," *The Daily Yomiuri*, 20 December 2001, page 3) The issue of amending the constitution, including Article 9, has been raised by several Japanese politicians and some sections of the Japanese media.

8. See *The Legal Framework of the Lao PDR and the International Criminal Court Justice System*, paper presented by the Laotian government representatives at the Experts Conference on International Criminal Court (Manila, 16-18 October 2001).

Legal Aid in Asia-Pacific¹

HURIGHTS OSAKA

Legal aid is one of the major tools for human rights protection. It plays vital role in countries where massive human rights violations occur. It continues to play such role in many countries in the region especially at this time of economic and social crises.

During the second half of 2001, regional and national activities on legal aid were held. These activities

- tried to bring more attention to the human rights dimension of legal aid and the need to create a regional support system for it;
- reviewed the various forms of legal aid programs in Northeast and Southeast Asia, the Pacific (and also from US, Canada and Britain); and
- provided training on human rights work to lawyers.

The Human Rights Committee of the Law Association for Asia and the Pacific (LAWASIA), LAWASIA-Philippines and the Integrated Bar of the Philippines convened the “Asia-Pacific Workshop on Legal Aid” in Manila on 22-24 June 2001.

The workshop aimed at (1) enhancing awareness of fundamental human rights; (2) developing strategies for the recognition of new rights and the enforcement of existing ones, especially those regarding women, children and migrants; (3) formulating strategic alliances to ensure equal standing before the law for vulnerable sectors, in particular, the establishment of an arrangement among law associations in the Asia-Pacific region for mutual protection and assistance of nationals; and (4) establishing mechanisms, including a legal aid foundation, to financially assist legal aid and other programs seeking equal protection and enforcement of rights.

One hundred twenty-seven participants attended the workshop. They were mainly lawyers and representatives of bar associations, including the Japan Legal Aid Association, National Legal Aid Centre (Malaysia), the Bar Association of India, Law Council of Australia, Japan Federation of Bar Associations, Pakistan Bar Council, Law Society of Thailand, Jakarta Legal Aid Institute, and China Legal Aid Center. There were also representatives of government

agencies and NGOs, which provide sectoral legal aid services such as the Ministry of Labor, the Department of Social Welfare (Philippines), the Overseas Workers Welfare Assistance (Philippines) and a representative from the coalition of legal assistance NGOs in the Philippines (the Alternative Law Groups). Representatives of a number of NGOs focusing on migrant, women and child rights issues also attended.

The participants agreed that there is a need for an Asia-Pacific regional legal aid system to promote and enforce human rights. The LAWASIA Human Rights Committee was requested to work on this undertaking, both as to its focus and form. It was suggested that in the establishment of a legal aid system, the Committee should focus on the following areas: (a) Access to justice and legal aid; (b) Women, migrants, children and indigenous peoples; and (c) Domestic implementation of international human rights standards.

On access to justice, the participants stressed the need for access to legal aid for people regardless of nationality and national borders. It was agreed that access to justice should be seen in a broader context with legal aid as only one form of achieving justice. It was emphasized that efforts towards greater access to justice must address social inequalities and enforce the enjoyment of all human rights – civil, cultural economic, political, and social.

Recognizing the magnitude of human rights issues in the region, the participants agreed to focus on the protection of the rights of vulnerable groups, namely the rights of women, migrants, children and indigenous peoples, as these are common issues of concern within the region.

On the domestic implementation of international human rights standards, the participants sought the initiation of a campaign to address the low level of ratification of international human rights instruments in the Asia-Pacific region. For those countries that have ratified the instruments, the participants agreed to call for the domestic implementation of international human rights standards. Suggestions on domestic implementation activities include (1) dissemination of

the Bangalore Principles which provide for the consideration of international law in the absence or insufficiency of municipal laws; (2) training of lawyers on the use of international standards in the local contexts; and (3) lobbying legislatures to pass laws incorporating these international standards.

There were various suggestions regarding the form of the Asia-Pacific legal aid system. It may include: (1) an arrangement based on a memorandum of cooperation on the provision of legal aid in the Asia-Pacific region by LAWASIA member bar associations and/or national legal aid centers; (2) a foundation or an association that focuses on the fundraising aspects of the legal aid initiative; and (3) a pool of volunteer lawyers, starting with the participants, as the initial group for the legal aid mechanism.

In commemoration of the 50th anniversary of its establishment, the Japan Legal Aid Association (JLAA) held the "The Pan-Pacific Legal Aid Conference – Multi Dimensional Needs for Legal Services" on 6-7 December 2001 in Tokyo.

The conference took up several issues including:

- a. Legal Aid Reform
- b. Emerging Legal Aid Activities in East and South East Asia
- c. Legal Aid for People with Special Needs
- d. Community Clinic Activities of Universities
- e. International Assistance in Legal Aid.

There were participants from Asian (Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Japan, Philippines, South Korea, Thailand, and Vietnam), Pacific (Australia), European (United Kingdom) and North American (Canada and the United States of America) countries. The participants represent government legal aid offices, NGOs and university legal aid clinics.

The presentations reviewed legal aid systems in Asia-Pacific such as those in South Korea, China, the Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia, Indonesia and Australia. Several problems affecting the legal aid system were identified such as limited number of lawyers who can provide the service, lack of training programs to develop legal skills and knowledge of legal aid program staff, and funding limitation. These problems relate to the existence of laws sanctioning legal aid, government financial support, the large demand for legal services from poorer sectors of society, and legal education in general.

One common challenge to legal aid programs is finan-

cial sustainability. None of the legal aid programs presented in the conference, including those in the US, Canada, Britain, Australia and Japan, can assure themselves of financial support. A major portion of the financial support for legal aid programs is government subsidy. Independent financial sustainability of legal aid programs is therefore rightly pointed out as a myth.

Another challenge facing legal aid programs is maintenance of quality of service. Several examples from United Kingdom and Canada were provided on how this concern is addressed.

In Malaysia, the Bar Council's Human Rights Committee held a human rights training for its members. There were presentations on international human rights standards and mechanisms, domestic human rights work, and related legal skills. It was the first training on human rights organized by the Malaysian Bar Council. It introduced many member-lawyers (who mainly do private law practice) to human rights work.

These activities highlighted the practical problems that continuously confront legal aid programs, not only in Asia-Pacific but in other regions of the world as well. But more importantly, from a human rights perspective, they represent the growing attention being given to human rights by the legal community.

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1. The information about the LAWASIA conference was provided by Ms. Rea Chiongson of the LAWASIA Human Rights Committee.

Colloquium on Gender Justice and Personal Laws

Research and Documentation Cell Lawyer's Collective Women's Rights Initiative

The second Lawyers Collective Women's Rights Initiative colloquium on Gender Justice and Personal Laws was held in New Delhi from 14-16 December 2001. Ms. Indira Jaising, Director, Lawyer's Collective Women's Rights Initiative welcomed the gathering. Mr. Arun Jaitley, Honorable Minister for Law, Justice and Company Affairs, Government of India, inaugurated the colloquium. Mr. Jaitley stressed the relevance of gender justice and pointed out the vital role played by NGOs such as the Lawyer's Collective in striving towards this goal. In her keynote address at the inaugural session, Prof. Savithri Goonesekera (vice-chancellor, University of Colombo) pointed out that equality in the mainstream, so to speak public law, is closely linked to equality in the private sphere. By referring to several examples such as the laws on guardianship and maintenance, she stressed the necessity to examine the colonial influence on South Asian family laws. Mr. S.K. Guha (Director, UNIFEM India office) spoke of the need to bring rights home to the women of South Asia.

The working sessions began with a keynote address on "Reconceptualizing Equality" by the eminent feminist thinker and activist, Prof. Catherine Mackinnon. Prof. Mackinnon drew a distinction between two models of equality: formal and substantive. While formal equality model is founded upon the necessity of treating equals equally, the substantive model goes a step further and tries to remedy the disadvantage suffered by people whom the formal equality model treats as simply different. In the context of the gender discrimination in fami-

ly law, she suggested that a uniform, gender just civil code may be enacted whose use is optional at women's initiative.

The country papers on India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Nepal and Bangladesh highlighted both context specific issues pertaining to these jurisdictions such as Islamization and ethnic war, and broad themes on the problem of gender discriminatory laws such as the well entrenched nature of patriarchy, the organs of the State competent to deal with this issue, the connection between minority identity and these laws. A lively discussion ensued on the meaning of choice, and the extent to which it is feasible for women in these jurisdictions with rampant poverty and illiteracy to make meaningful choice. Discussion on strategies adopted by the women's movement in South Asia followed these presentations.

In her keynote address on the second day of the colloquium, the celebrated philosopher, Prof. Martha Nussbaum argued that it would be unwise, both on the basis of strategy and principle to ignore the importance of religion in people's lives. In addressing gender discriminatory personal laws, she suggested that the following principles might be adopted: 1) equal respect for all persons, and 2) constraint by fundamental entitlements. She maintained that any solution to the conundrum of tension between religion and other fundamental entitlements would have to be context-sensitive taking into account the resources and the dangers in every political culture. In the Indian context, a combination of internal reform with facilitation of exit into another system seems to be needed.

Following this thought provoking lecture, two succeeding sessions were organized around the issue of implications of a plural legal system. The themes were "Plural legal systems and challenges before the judiciary" and the "Interface between equality and culture." The papers focused on the reluctance of the judiciary to deal with gender discriminatory personal laws, the territorial asymmetry with respect to women's rights to property, the relevance of parallel 'legal' systems on the rights of women, etc. The last session of the day dealt with the crucial issue of reform of personal laws. The presentations covered reform strategies adopted by

women governed by Muslim family law across the world, the campaign for reform of the Christian law on marriage and divorce in India, the impact of identity politics on the reform of Hindu personal law in Bangladesh and the extent to which codification of Muslim personal law would be a viable solution to gender discrimination.

The concluding day began with a lecture by Prof. Savithri Goonesekera on the various concerns that had been addressed during the past two days. In the context of apathy towards women's rights in South Asia, she stressed the need to lobby for the adoption of the optional protocol to the CEDAW in all these countries. Prof. Nussbaum's capabilities approach is crucial in the era of globalization. It calls for integrating rights with development and this is something that NGOs, policy makers and lawyers need to ponder about deeply.

The special session on International Perspectives began with a keynote address "The identity within: Cultural relativism, minority rights and the empowerment of women" by Prof. Radhika Coomaraswamy (UN Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women). She pointed out that the legacy of colonial powers championing the cause of the third world women conditions the debate on women's equality in many parts of the world. She felt that violations of gender equality such as female genital mutilation, torture and honor killings most resemble torture and should not be condoned by any State. With respect to other kinds of violations, such as unequal shares of inheritance, arbitrary powers of divorce and polygamy, she suggested that the South African model offers new insights. This model seeks to protect women's equality and economic independence as well as freedom of choice. The other presentations highlighted the universality of women's oppression by drawing on examples from developed nations and the strategies that have been employed in dealing with it.

The concluding session of the colloquium "The transition from colonialism to constitutionalism, gender justice and governance" is of relevance to all five South Asian states, all of whom were colonies a little over fifty years ago. There was broad consensus that transition to democracy has

only meant transition to political equality. In several respects, the so-called private domain continues to exist as an enclave, immuned from constitutional challenges.

This colloquium was the first occasion where the South Asia dimension of the issue of gender discriminatory personal laws was brought out. In all the five countries represented at the colloquium (India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Nepal) women are largely governed by discriminatory family laws that are linked to religion. The legacy of colonialism, minority identity politics, and the threat of majoritarianism are some of the common features that bind these five jurisdictions in the realm of discriminatory personal laws. However, feminist and other progressive groups have rarely seen this as an issue of concern to all South Asian women and tend to look for both principles and strategies within the confines of their own jurisdictions. A South Asia perspective to this issue exposes the striking similarities across all these countries in this area and aids women's groups in their endeavor to deconstruct the given on themes such as cultural identity, group rights, etc. The colloquium provided the opportunity to lawyers, activists, academics, and students to ponder deeply on gender, culture and patriarchy. It affirmed the non-negotiability and universality of gender equality.

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Human Rights Education and the UN

HURIGHTS OSAKA

Since the UN Decade for Human Rights Education (1995-2004) was declared in late 1994, the role of the UN in promoting human rights education has become more focused. With the Decade, the UN has a clear human rights education agenda to pursue.

Two UN-sponsored activities held in November 2001 in support of human rights education have implications for the Asia-Pacific region. These activities exemplify the roles that the UN must assume in promoting its agenda. The UN has to facilitate the formulation of international guidelines that can help governments adopt human rights education programs. At the same time, it has to provide technical assistance to governments in translating international guidelines into national programs.

The International Consultative Conference on School Education in relation with Freedom of Religion and Belief, Tolerance and Non-discrimination held in Madrid, Spain from 23-25 November 2001 provided the avenue for international guideline formulation. The National Workshop on Human Rights Education held in Beijing, China from 8-9 November 2001 is a concrete national-level effort made possible by technical cooperation agreement between the UN (through the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights) and the government of China.

In the Madrid conference, the main question is: how does religious education contribute to the promotion of tolerance and non-discrimination, hence to the promotion of human rights?¹

The conference declared that "...education in relation with freedom of religion or belief can also contribute to the attainment of the goals of world peace, social justice, mutual respect and friendship among peoples and promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms." It can also contribute to the promotion of "...freedoms of conscience, opinion, expression, information and research as well as acceptance of diversity." (paras q and r, Final Document)²

The conference highlighted the following factors in the education system:

- a. education policies aimed at promoting human rights, eradicating prejudices and conceptions incompatible with freedom of religion or belief,

and ensuring respect for and acceptance of pluralism and diversity; (para 4)

- b. role of parents, families, legal guardians and other legally recognized care givers in the education of children; (para 9)
- c. role of members of the media, NGOs and other members of the civil society in providing relevant knowledge in the field of freedom of religion or belief; (para 15)
- d. role of school education and out-of-school activities organized by educational institutions of any nature in promoting non-discrimination and tolerance, with a consideration of the fact that attitudes are formed at the primary and secondary school stage; (para 8)
- e. support for teachers by providing them, among others, with opportunities to study different religions and beliefs, as well as to learn from the experiences in education in relation with freedom of religion or belief all over the world; (para 10)
- f. role of mass communication facilities in the "renewal, production, dissemination, translation and exchange of means and materials for education in the field of freedom of religion or belief." (para 11).

The conference stressed the importance of providing attention to the educational needs of women and girls, and members of other vulnerable groups.

The final document of the conference, treated as an international guideline for school education on freedom of religion, tolerance and non-discrimination, complements the Decade's Guidelines for national plans of action for human rights education.³

In view of the recent World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance held in Durban, South Africa last August 2001, the Madrid conference is a direct response to the call for practical steps at eradicating discrimination and intolerance.

As a result of the UN organized "Annual Workshops on Regional Cooperation for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights in the Asia-Pacific Region," a "Framework of Regional Technical

Cooperation Programme in Asia and the Pacific"⁴ (Tehran Framework) was developed. This document lists activities that can help governments in the region develop human rights programs.

The Tehran Framework provides under the item on human rights education the following:

Activity (b): Provision by the Office of the High Commissioner of Human Rights (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...

The South Korean government, Korean National Commission for UNESCO and OHCHR jointly organized the Northeast Asia workshop on human rights education in schools, on 1-4 December 1999 in Seoul following the Tehran Framework. Government, NGO and school representatives from China, South Korea, Mongolia and Japan attended the workshop.

Subsequently, the Chinese government and the OHCHR signed a memorandum of agreement for technical cooperation activities. This became the basis for the holding of the Seminar on Human Rights Education in Beijing on 8-9 November 2001.

Heads or representatives of various government personnel training institutes, the ministry of education, universities, and schools, attended the seminar.

The participants were able to put together a set of recommendations on follow up activities touching on four areas: 1. Human rights education for primary and secondary schools; 2. Human rights training for professionals and other groups; 3. Research; and 4. Institution-building.

The recommendations on human rights education for primary and secondary schools cover the following:

- a. Development of national human rights education programs for primary and secondary schools;
- b. Building on existing courses (legal education, moral education) for the primary and secondary levels, development of human rights education program by adding international human rights standards;
- c. Review/study of human rights education curricula from other countries;
- d. Review/study of textbooks with human rights content from other countries;
- e. Development of children-friendly materials (in simple language, with drawings, graphics, etc.) on human rights standards (e.g., Convention on the Rights of the Child);

- j. Development and strengthening of human rights education in all teacher training institutions;
- k. Study of human rights education teaching methodologies from other countries.

On human rights training for professionals and other groups, the following activities were identified:

- a. Development of specific human rights training programs suitable for different audiences (such as government/public servants, judges, teachers (tertiary, secondary, primary levels), law enforcement agencies, minorities, and illiterates/people with limited education);
- b. Inclusion in the content of the training programs of the following :
 1. Theory of human rights
 2. National law and its relation to international human rights instruments
 3. Mechanisms for protection of human rights for public prosecutors, law enforcement officers and public servants
 4. Teaching methodologies (use of case studies, field studies)
 5. Skills for textbook development;
- c. Development of appropriate training materials;
- d. Development of a human rights course in judges college;
- e. Development and strengthening of human rights education in all teacher-training institutions.

For research, the following were suggested:

- a. Development of research studies on the following topics:
 - Theory of human rights
 - International human rights law – history, background/foundation/reasons for the rights
 - Simplified version of international human rights instruments
 - Law and virtues/values
 - Best practices on human rights education in other countries
 - programs for women, judges, disabled, police, schools
 - national implementation of international human rights instruments
 - Implication for ratification of treaties.

And lastly, for institution-building the following were suggested:

- a. Securing more funding from the Chinese govern-

ment and United Nations;

- b. Involving more government departments (in addition to those already involved);
- c. Including human rights education in the university curriculum of all faculties;
- d. Development and strengthening of human rights education in all teacher training institutions;
- e. Development of a human rights course in judges college;
- f. Development of support system/network for existing institutions (association of legal research institutions, social organizations, universities, etc.) in human rights education (examples of social organizations include Women's Federation, consumers' union, law societies, trade unions, Association of the Disabled, etc.); and
- g. Development of programs for international exchanges.

The suggestions take into consideration the view that human rights education in China should reflect the Chinese realities, including culture, values, history and current economic development.

In March 2002, the UN-organized Tenth Workshop on Regional Cooperation for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights in the Asia-Pacific Region held in Beirut adopted a set of activities supporting human rights education, among other concerns. The programme of action has the following main objective: To strengthen national capacities for human rights education with a focus on the incorporation of human rights education within the school system. Activities comprising the programme are the following:

- a. Preparation, publication and dissemination of a compilation of initiatives undertaken in the Asia-Pacific region in the area of human rights education, training and public information;
- b. Research and publication on popular and non-formal human rights education methodologies used in the region, paying particular attention to those which are directed to vulnerable, disadvantaged and marginalized groups;
- c. Compilation and dissemination of existing materials (textbooks, curricula, legislation, etc.) for human rights education in schools, consistent with the principles of the Convention on the Rights of the Child;
- d. Organizing of a series of workshops in various sub-regions aiming at the inclusion of human rights education in the school system and building on the methodology developed at the Sub-Regional Training Workshop on Human

Rights Education in Northeast Asia held in Seoul, Republic of Korea, in December 1999;

- e. Linking of national efforts to regional/subregional activities to facilitate information sharing;
- f. Research on various aspects of human rights education in schools, such as comparative studies, and development of guidelines concerning education policies, school and teacher-training curricula, extracurricular activities and innovative classroom/school management experiences, evaluation of impact of human rights education programmes;
- g. Development by the UN of appropriate video materials for promotion of human rights in schools; and
- h. Provision of advisory services to develop and implement further activities to promote effective human rights education in schools, underlining the benefits of human and cultural diversity, religious tolerance and combating discrimination.

The Beirut programme of action is based on the Tehran Framework and builds on the Beijing programme of action (1999). This clearly demonstrates the direction that the annual UN-organized regional workshop is taking. There is a major thrust towards concrete activities that respond to the needs concerning the development of human rights education programs in the region.

The results of the three UN activities have value as far as they are geared toward the adoption and development of human rights education programs at the regional, national and local levels.

While the guidelines/suggestions from these UN-sponsored activities appear fairly ordinary, they are necessary to make governments adopt a more active role in human rights education.

Endnotes

1. Based on the Introductory Note by Mr. Abdelfattah Amor, Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on the question of religious intolerance.
2. The Final Document of the conference explains in a footnote that freedom of religion or belief is understood to include "theistic, non-theistic and atheistic beliefs, as well as the right not to profess any religion or belief."
3. A/52/469/Add.1, 20 October 1997
4. E/CN.4/1998/50, 12 March 1998

Update on HRE and HREOC*

Jan Payne

One of the most important statutory functions of the Australian Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission is to undertake educational programs for the purpose of promoting human rights. It is a vital function of the Commission.

At the Ninth Workshop for Regional Cooperation for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights in the Asia-Pacific Region held in Bangkok (March 2001), the President of the Commission (Professor Alice Tay) spoke of a range of programs and initiatives used by the Commission in regard to human rights education. These programs include human rights training activities, media engagement on human rights issues, speeches and presentations by Commissioners and staff, and the conduct of National Inquiries on important human rights issues. Examples of such Inquiries are the very widely reported National Inquiry into the removal of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children from their families and the recently announced National Inquiry into Children held in Detention.

The latter Inquiry will look at the adequacy and appropriateness of Australia's treatment of child asylum seekers and other children who are, or have been, held in immigration detention.

National Inquiries have a very important educative role in that they seek to promote an understanding and acceptance of human rights in Australia; they undertake research to promote human rights; they examine laws related to human rights; and provide advice to government on laws and actions that are required to comply with international human rights obligations.

National Inquiries together with the complaints handling processes of the Commission (which provides individual remedies for persons who have suffered discrimination or breaches of human rights), form a powerful nexus in the promotion of human rights and

responsibilities in Australia.

I would like to update the human rights education information particularly in the areas of Online Human Rights Education Resources, the Intervention and Amicus functions of the Commission and the upcoming workshop to be hosted by the Commission on Human Rights Education, the Media and Racism.

In relation to online education resources, two challenges confront the Commission. First, the internet must be accessible to all students and secondly the information must be accurate, accessible, challenging and creative. We rely on government to supply the infrastructure, and the Australian government has committed to making the internet available to as many students as possible.

As far as the second challenge is concerned, the Commission consults widely with teachers and students. We use surveys and evaluative measures including electronic mailing lists to assess the effectiveness of the education materials. Feedback so far has been very positive.

The first online human rights education program the Commission has developed is called Youth Challenge (YC). It is for secondary school students. The program was launched in December 2001 by Professor Tay and a group of education experts. It links to curriculum subjects such as Civics and Citizenship, History and Legal Studies.

YC provides teaching strategies, activity worksheets, links to human rights resource materials, and case studies presented by way of two videos. There are three parts to the program which cover human rights in the classroom, origins of human rights, relationship between rights and responsibilities and application to the students' own lives. Other issues include the importance of "identity" and difference as an element of human rights, and sex, race and disability discrimination.

The Commission has promoted the online materials widely through the use of advertisements in teacher journals, distribution of posters and postcards and direct contact with all secondary schools. The success of the promotion is evident from the online statistics for December 2001/January 2002 which show large numbers of people accessing the YC online materials.

Work is now underway within the Commission to produce a comprehensive online education program. Initially targeting teachers (both primary and secondary), students will also have access and be able to use the materials as well. The aims of the modules are to provide a context for discussion on human rights and to assist students to hone their decision

* This is an excerpt of the report presented by Jan Payne at the Tenth Workshop on Regional Cooperation for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights in the Asia-Pacific Region held in Beirut, Lebanon, 4 - 6 March 2002.

making skills when presented with a range of conflicting ideas about human rights and responsibilities.

The second human rights education activity I wanted to discuss is the Intervention and Amicus role of the Commission.

The Commission has had a function of acting as an Intervener in certain court proceedings since the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission Act commenced in 1986. The amicus role given to each individual Commissioner only came into effect in April 2000. The Commission uses the amicus and intervention role as an educational tool, by the promotion of our arguments through publication on the website (www.humanrights.gov.au) and comments in the media as appropriate.

An amicus curiae is a "friend of the court" whose role had traditionally been to ensure that the court is properly informed of matters which it ought to take into account in reaching its decision. An amicus application may only be heard if the court thinks it is proper after "good cause" has been shown by the applicant.

The Commission has developed guidelines for the exercise of the amicus curiae function which can be found on the Commission's website. The amicus curiae function applies only to those matters in which a complaint alleging unlawful race, sex, or disability discrimination has been terminated by the Commission and where the Federal Court or Federal Magistrates Service is subsequently hearing the application.

To date, the Sex Discrimination Commissioner is the only Commissioner who has appeared as amicus curiae. The court accepted that the proceedings had significant implications for the administration of the Sex Discrimination Act (SDA) and it was in the public interest for her to assist the court. The benefit of exercising this role is that it will assist with the development of a body of anti-discrimination jurisprudence and should assist the parties to focus on the issues and ultimately resolve the dispute. The Commission will continue to monitor cases where this function may be applicable.

The Intervention function of the Commission has much broader application. The Commission with the permission of the Court can intervene in court proceedings involving any human rights issues (human rights being defined as those recognized in six named international instruments);¹ in proceedings involving discrimination in employment or occupation; and in race, sex, marital status, pregnancy or disability discrimination matters. Guidelines regarding the Intervention function can also be found on the Commission website.

In proceedings where the Commission had intervened it has relied heavily on its specialist human rights knowledge and expertise. It has also been careful to choose proceedings which involve issues of public importance which may effect to a significant extent persons other than the parties before the Court. The Commission has sought and been granted leave as an Intervener in 26 cases. The range of matters includes:

- Family law proceedings involving sterilization of young women with disabilities, and the validation of the marriage of a female to a male transsexual person;
- Proceedings involving child abduction cases; international law and the extent to which administrative decision makers are obliged to take into account human rights instruments in making their decisions;
- Native title issues;
- Immigration cases including access by people in detention to legal representation; and the alleged arbitrary detention of persons aboard the MV Tampa.

The exercise of these functions broaden the educative base of the Commission and provide an important avenue for the development of human rights and anti-discrimination law in Australia.

Finally, the Commission with the assistance of the UN Office of the High Commission for Human Rights is hosting in May/June of this year (2002) the Regional Workshop on Human Rights Education, Media and Racism. The goal of the workshop is to provide Asia-Pacific Forum of National Human Rights Institutions members, and other national human rights institutions with strategies and skills to strengthen their capacity to utilize the media to promote human rights education, particularly as it is related to educating against racism.

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1. International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Convention on the Rights of the Child, Declaration on the Rights of Mentally Retarded Persons, Declaration on the Rights of Disabled Persons, and Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Intolerance and of Discrimination Based on Religion or Belief.

Declaration of Human Rights in Japan

Editor's Note: The caste-like system of Buraku discrimination in Japan has persisted for centuries. It remains a problem till today. Buraku Japanese during the early 20th century started to organize to fight for their rights. In 1922 they founded in Kyoto the National Levelers' Association (Zenkoku Suiheisha) whose main objective is to eradicate Buraku discrimination. At the founding assembly of the association on March 3, 1922, the *Suiheisha Declaration* was adopted. It is regarded as Japan's first declaration of human rights. It can likewise be considered as one of the earlier Asian documents on human rights issued by a social movement. The declaration has remained as an influential document in the Buraku anti-discrimination movement. In commemoration of the 80th anniversary of Zenkoku Suiheisha, the declaration was translated into Chinese, Korean, English, French, German, Russian, Spanish and Ainu languages. There is also a version in Braille. Here below is the full text of the English version of the Declaration.

Declaration

*Tokushu Burakumin*¹ throughout the country: Unite!

Long-suffering brothers²! Over the past half century, the movements³ on our behalf by so many people and in such varied ways have yielded no appreciable results. This failure is the punishment we have incurred for permitting ourselves as well as others to debase our own human dignity. Previous movements, though seemingly motivated by compassion, actually corrupted many of our brothers. Thus, it is imperative that we now organize a new collective movement to emancipate ourselves by promoting respect for human dignity.

Brothers! Our ancestors pursued and practiced freedom and equality. They were the victims of base, contemptible class policies and they were the manly⁴ martyrs of industry. As a reward for skinning animals, they were stripped of their own living flesh; in return for tearing out the hearts of animals, their own warm human hearts were ripped apart. They were even spat upon with ridicule. Yet, all through these cursed nightmares, their human pride ran deep in their blood. Now, the time has come when we human beings, pulsing with this blood, are soon to regain our divine dignity.⁵ The time has come for the victims to throw off their stigma. The time has come for the blessing of the martyrs' crown of thorns.

The time has come when we can be proud of being *Eta*.⁶

We must never again shame our ancestors and profane humanity through servile words and cowardly deeds. We, who know just how cold human society can be, who know what it is to be pitied, do fervently seek and adore the warmth and light of human life from deep within our hearts.

Thus is the *Suiheisha*⁷ born.

Let there be warmth in human society, let there be light in all human beings.

March 3, 1922⁸ The *Suiheisha*

Notes

1 Tokushu Burakumin - In Japanese 'buraku' means a village/community and 'min' means people. 'Tokushu' means special. "Tokushu Burakumin" therefore means "people of a special community." From around 1900, the term came to be used deliberately by the government in a discriminatory fashion to emphasize the perception held by non-Buraku people that Buraku people are peculiar and lowly in comparison to the general populous. The founders of the National Levelers' Association, themselves Buraku people, intentionally used "Tokushu Burakumin" with pride rather than with self-deprecation.

2 Brothers - Those suffering from Buraku discrimination were both men and women so the term should be "brothers and sisters." Yet the awareness of rights for women was very low in Japanese society at this time, and likewise for the founders of the National Levelers' Association in addressing themselves primarily to Buraku men.

3 "Movements" refers to 'kaizen undo' (improvement movements) and 'yuwa undo' (reconciliation movements) undertaken before the founding of the National Levelers' Association. The former were organized to improve community sanitation conditions and social habits, such as behavior and language usage of Buraku people, and the latter were organized in order to try to achieve societal integration for, and reconciliation with, Buraku people. The founders of the National Levelers' Association severely criticized the nature of both such movements, because they sensed these movements were motivated by benevolent charity instead of an actual desire to promote the attainment of equality.

4 Although "manly" is used to emphasize the industrial role played by the Buraku, behind its usage lies the understanding in Japanese society at the time which believed men were superior to women.

5 Until this time, some god-like transcendent power was thought to be absolute and the object of worship for humans, but from this time forth, the time has come for humans themselves to replace such divine power, to be respected as beings who have unlimited potential.

6 *Eta* is a highly discriminatory term, meaning full of filth, came to be commonly used in the caste-like class system of Japan's Edo period (AD1603-1867), and was continued to be used into modern times with regard to Buraku people. The founders of the National Levelers' Association protested strongly against its use in society; however, to fellow Buraku people, they emphasized that being *Eta* was something to be proud of.

7 The word 'suihei,' meaning horizontal or level, is employed as a call to realize a society that is uniformly even and without discrimination. As an association for such aims, the name *Suiheisha* ('sha' means association) was used. At the time, the term was synonymous with autonomous Buraku liberation organizations. "National," prefectural or district proper names, were placed at the front of the term as appropriate.

8 The original text indicates the founding date only as "March, Taisho 11." Taisho (AD1912-1926) was the era named after the then-Emperor Taisho following the Japanese tradition of naming eras based on the emperor system. In alignment with the international custom of using Christian dating, we have chosen in this translation "1922" and included the date when the Declaration was made, March 3, in order to emphasize the importance of the actual founding of the National Levelers' Association.

For further information on the declaration, please contact: Kenzo Tomonaga, Director, Buraku Liberation and Human Rights Research Institute, 1-6-12, Kuboyoshi, Naniwa-Ku, Osaka, 556-0028 Japan, ph (816) 6568 0905, fax (816) 6568 0714, e-mail: udhr@blhrrri.org

Post-Durban Action in Asia-Pacific

Kazuhiro Kawamoto

On 3-5 February 2002 representatives of youth groups from the different subregions of Asia met in Singapore and discussed possible follow-up activities to the Youth Summit Declaration and Plan of Action adopted in Durban during the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance (WCAR). The meeting planned more active youth involvement in anti-racism activities. They decided to prioritize the maintenance and strengthening of links between youth organizations in the region and the monitoring of follow-up activities to the WCAR. They are now looking for key contact person in each of the forty-three countries in the region, who can assist in collating and disseminating information about the follow-up activities, and help develop youth network at the national level. They also discussed the need to

formalize the structure of the Global Youth Network that was created at the WCAR and to hold the inaugural International Youth Summit on 21 March (International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination) in 2003.

Aside from this activity, governments and NGOs in the Asia-Pacific region do not seem to be taking specific follow-up activities.

The follow-up activities of NGOs figured prominently in a meeting organized by the Anti-Discrimination Unit of the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. This meeting entitled the "Second Stocktaking After Durban - NGOs in Action" discussed post-Durban activities of the NGOs (held or planned) based on the Declaration and Programme of Action of the WCAR. The meeting was held on 22 March 2002 in Geneva, during the 58th session of the Commission on Human Rights.

For further information please visit: www.communityzero.com/globalnetwork-asia (go to preview site) or contact Mr. Hayato Nakamura in Japan at jp_youth@hotmail.com

Kazuhiro Kawamoto is a staffmember of HURIGHTS OSAKA.

Events

Events

1. The Asia Women's Resource Exchange (AWORC), an Internet-based network of women's resource and information providers in Asia will hold the First Women's Electronic Networking Training Workshop in the Philippines or WENT-PH on 24-26 April 2002 in Quezon City.

WENT-PH will train participants in running web-based information services and in using online communication tools to advance their networking and advocacy work. WENT-PH hopes to enhance women's networking by encouraging collaboration and resource exchange among participants before, during and even after the training.

For more information about WENT-PH, write to went-ph-info@womenshub.net or visit www.aworc.org/went/went-ph.

2. The Asian Forum for Human Rights and Development (Forum-Asia) is organizing a week-long Regional Training Program on Advancing Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. The programme will be hosted by ERA Consumer and Suara Rakyat Malaysia (SUARAM). It will be held on 29 July-4 August 2002 in Kuala Lumpur. The training program aims to strengthen knowledge, skills and tools required

for advancing ESC rights in the region.

For further information please contact: Ms.Sunsanee Sutthisunsanee, Training Coordinator, FORUM-ASIA, 109 Suthisarnwinichai Road, Samsennok Huaykang, Bangkok 10320 Thailand, ph (66 2) 276-9846 ext. 216, fax (66 2) 693-4939, e-mail: training@forumasia.org, www.forumasia.org

3. The Third South Asian Human Rights and Peace Studies Orientation Course of the South Asia Forum for Human Rights will be held in Kathmandu on 3 - 17 August 2002. It is a foundation course intended for peace and human rights activists, media persons, researchers, academics, and persons involved in policy work on conflict resolution. The course will take into account various forms of violence, war, and intervention, their impact on democracy, and will draw on the experiences of human rights and peace activism, and the moral resistance to war in South Asia and elsewhere. Applications must be received by April 20.

For further information, please contact: Peace Studies Desk, South Asia Forum for Human Rights, 3/23, Shree Durbar Tole, Patan Dhoka, Lalitpur, Kathmandu, Nepal; GPO Box 12855, ph (977 1) 541026; fax (977 1) 527852; e-mail: south@safhr.org

HURIGHTS OSAKA ACTIVITIES

HURIGHTS OSAKA held a series of study meetings during the January to March 2002 period. Study meetings were held on the Africa-Japan relations (January) with Prof. Makoto Katsumata (Meiji Gakuin University) as the main speaker, on the Palestinian issue (February) with Prof. Hidesuke Naramoto (HoSei University), on dalit discrimination with Ms. Sumita Narula (Human Rights Watch - New York office), and on Burmese refugees with Dr. Cynthia Maung (a Burmese doctor who provide medical services to Burmese refugees along the Thai-Burma border).

Public display of the posters on the WCAR made by HURIGHTS OSAKA continues. They were displayed in a public exhibition on human rights in a district of Osaka city in January. A pamphlet on WCAR was also published in February. The pamphlet explains the major issues in WCAR.



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 in meeting 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

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