

# FOCUS

## Asia-Pacific



Newsletter of the Asia-Pacific Human Rights Information Center (HURIGHTS OSAKA)

December 2013 Vol. 74

### Contents

#### **Human Rights in Japanese Companies**

*This is a short discussion on the international initiatives on business and human rights, the issues related to human rights that involve Japanese companies, and existing dispute resolution mechanisms in Japan. This is based on the report on Japan under the Northeast Asian business and human rights research project.*

- Jefferson R. Plantilla

Page 2

#### **Rise of Hate Speech in Japan**

*This is a short report on the recent activities of a Japanese group that demands the repatriation of Korean residents and other foreign residents in Japan, and uses hate speech in public demonstrations.*

- The International Movement Against All Forms of Discrimination and Racism - Japan Committee

Page 7

#### **Fourth International Conference on Human Rights Education**

*This is a report on the highlights of the 2013 International Human Rights Education Conference held in Taiwan.*

- Shioh Duan Hawang and Sev Ozdowski

Page 10

#### **Human Rights Events in the Asia-Pacific**

*This is information on important human rights events in the region.*

Page 13

#### **2013 HURIGHTS OSAKA Publications**

*This is an introduction of the three publications of HURIGHTS OSAKA printed in 2013 (Directory of Asia-Pacific Human Rights Centers, Human Rights Education in the Northeast Asian School Systems, Human Rights Education in Asia-Pacific - 4th volume) and also the Human Rights-based Equal Access to Justice: A Primer (in Japanese language).*

Page 14

### Editorial

#### Justice and Business

The economic development of any country depends to a very large extent on the contribution of the business community. A large section of the population derives livelihood from business activities, with the companies providing employment to many people.

However, the problems arising from company operations that qualify as human rights abuses cannot be ignored. Companies' lack of respect for and protection of workers' rights continue to occur. Company operations that fail to apply adequate safety measures exist, resulting in human rights abuses affecting people as workers or as residents around company premises.

It is in this context that the initiatives of the United Nations and other institutions on the application of human rights standards in company operations is a welcome development.

These initiatives should be the bases of attention on the dispute resolution mechanisms, within or outside the company systems, that are meant to cover human rights abuses.

How are these problems resolved? Do the dispute resolution mechanisms that exist apply the human rights standards?

There is always room for improvement in the task of serving justice while doing business.

# Human Rights in Japanese Companies\*

Jefferson R. Plantilla

Considering the current initiatives, the business community seems to recognize the significance of incorporating human rights standards in the operations of companies.

While the basic motive in this case is business, such involvement in human rights opens the companies to a process of adhering to international standards that United Nations (UN) member-states have adopted.

Similar to the situation of UN member-states, full adherence to international human rights standards by companies is a major challenge.

There are Japanese companies that have been reporting on their human rights-related activities. And a number of them are participating in the international initiatives on business and human rights.

The Japanese corporate responsibility of upholding the companies' commitment to human rights has to be seen in the context of the problems covering a variety of issues arising from company operations.

## Subscription to Human Rights Standards

The UN Global Compact has on record two hundred twenty-one "participants" from Japan as of January 2014. This number

includes two hundred eleven "business" participants (companies, small and medium enterprises, and one state-owned company), and ten inactive "business" participants (those that failed to submit a Communication on Progress by scheduled deadline).<sup>1</sup> Japanese companies are likewise involved, or have adopted, several relevant international initiatives and systems:

- a. *2008 CEO Statement - 60th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights* (sponsored by the UN Global Compact)
- b. *2010 Women's Empowerment Principles* (sponsored by the UN Global Compact)
- c. ISO 26000 (guidance on how businesses and organizations can operate in a socially responsible way; acting in an ethical and transparent way that contributes to the health and welfare of society)<sup>2</sup>
- d. *1976 Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises of the Organisation of Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)*<sup>3</sup>
- e. Sustainability Reporting Framework of the Global Reporting Initiative (use of sustainability reporting as a way for organizations to become more sustainable and contribute to sustainable development)<sup>4</sup>

- f. Equator Principles (credit risk management framework for determining, assessing and managing environmental and social risk in project finance transactions).<sup>5</sup>

The Japanese companies domestically implement their international commitment to human rights through several measures:

- a. Membership in the Global Compact - Japan Network (GC-JN);
- b. Participation in the work of the Japan Business Federation (Nippon Keidanren) on human rights such as subscription to the 2005 Keidanren "Matrix of Elements of Corporate Social Responsibility – Human Rights;"
- c. Using available guides such as ISO 26000, GRI and Equator Principles in preparing corporate reports;
- d. Adopting principles and establishing programs and structures within the companies to deal with human rights issues.

## Issues

During the 2008-2011 period, the government reported a decreasing number of collective labor disputes: 657 (2008), 780 (2009), 682 (2010), and 612 (2011). The annual total number of labor disputes in the past was

much higher with 1,487 (1950), 2,222 (1960), 4,511 (1970), 4,376 (1980), and 2,071 (1990) respectively.<sup>6</sup>

However, the number of reported cases on workplace bullying has been increasing in recent years with 51,670 (2012), 45,939 (2011), 39,405 (2010), and 35,759 (2009).<sup>7</sup> Surveys on workplace bullying based on gender show a general higher number of cases involving female workers,<sup>8</sup> who suffer different types of harassment (from so-called “pregnancy harassment” to sexual harassment).<sup>9</sup>

There seems to be no accurate data on cases of *karoshi* (death from overwork) and *karojisatsu* (suicide or death due to overwork and stressful working conditions). The National Police Agency reports the increasing number of suicides “prompted by problems in the workplace” and yet only an estimated 20 percent of the cases have been covered by claims for compensation with the Labor Standards Bureau.<sup>10</sup>

The November 2013 survey data show an increasing number of people who cannot find regular jobs and thus work as part-time workers, 18.1 percent; *arbeit* (temporary workers), 8.0 percent; dispatched workers from temporary labor agency, 2.2 percent; contract employees, 5.3 percent; entrusted employees, 2.1 percent; and others, 1.5 percent.<sup>11</sup> They total to 37.2 percent of the total labor force. Non-regular workers are disadvantaged by their contractual status (fixed or short term), lower wages than

regular workers, and exclusion from the welfare and pension programs provided for regular workers.<sup>12</sup>

Japanese labor is experiencing decreasing membership in labor unions, while another form of unionism is taking place in the sense that the “mainstream unionism at major firms and industries [is] replaced by enterprise unions that [are] willing to cooperate with management for increas[ed] productivity.”<sup>13</sup> As of 2012, the number of workers who are members of labor unions had gone below ten million, equivalent to less than 20 percent of the total labor force.

Non-Japanese workers also face labor problems as acknowledged by the Japanese Business Federation (Nippon Keidanren) way back in 2003. The Nippon Keidanren declared that “[D]ouble standards in employment - i.e., when non-Japanese workers are subjected to worse labor conditions than Japanese workers or when only non-Japanese workers can be dismissed without reasonable cause, must not be allowed.”<sup>14</sup> The Nippon Keidanren recognized the need to get non-Japanese workers to enter the local workforce as a “viable option for filling [the] gap” caused by “ageing society and lower birth rate...”<sup>15</sup> There are also foreign trainees and interns under the government Technical Intern Training Program. However, there were companies that participated in the program to avail of low-wage labor and made them do work that did not provide the trainees the opportunity to learn new skills. Again, the Nippon Keidanren

expressed concern that “[T]his situation clearly stray[ed] from the programs’ original intent of transferring technologies to developing countries, and [was] the most serious problem associated with these programs.”<sup>16</sup>

The Ministry of Justice has started the review of the “state-assisted job training program for foreigners ... in early November [2013] to prevent irregularities such as unpaid and low wages for trainees.”<sup>17</sup>

Overseas operations of Japanese companies, largely concentrated in Asia and the Pacific, face a number of cases relating to low wages, use of labor outsourcing systems, union busting, and adverse impact on the environment.<sup>18</sup>

At the international level, the United Nations Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights noted with concern several issues related to<sup>19</sup>

1. Lack of comprehensive law prohibiting acts of discrimination with appropriate penalty for violation
2. Discrimination against persons with disability
3. Discrimination against women workers
4. Abuse of fixed-term contracts
5. Lack of legislation on sexual harassment, as well as all forms of harassment in the workplace.

In terms of impact of company activities on communities where they operate, industry-related problems have occurred. Pollution and health-related

cases included cadmium poisoning from mining pollution (*Itai-itai* disease) in Toyama prefecture; mercury poisoning from industrial wastewater (Minamata disease) in Kumamoto and Niigata prefectures; asthma and bronchitis from industrial air pollution (Yokkaichi asthma) in the cities of Yokkaichi (Mie prefecture), Kawasaki (Kanagawa prefecture), and Amagasaki (Hyogo prefecture); illnesses due to pollution from public roads and highways in Osaka city (Nishiyodogawa), southern part of Nagoya city (Aichi prefecture) and Tokyo; Morinaga Arsenic Dry Milk Poisoning; Kanemi Oil Poisoning; the adverse effects of Clioquinol SMON (subacute myelo optic neuropathy) and Thalidomide, and the asbestos-related diseases.<sup>20</sup> The recent nuclear plant meltdown in Fukushima prefecture displaced many communities surrounding the plant and required the continuing monitoring of the health condition of the people in these communities for possible radiation-related diseases.

### Access to Justice

Japan has established legal mechanisms to resolve labor and other disputes involving companies. Individual labor disputes can be resolved through any of the three options:<sup>21</sup>

1. Labor Administration Offices – they resolve disputes through “adjustment or conciliation or mediation.” They also provide counseling service.

2. Regular courts – they resolve disputes filed as civil complaints
3. Labor Tribunal Committees (court-appointed bodies) – they mediate/arbitrate to resolve the disputes, and also issue judgment.

For unfair labor practices (particularly rights of association and adjustments of labor relations),<sup>22</sup> the Labor Relations Commission system consisting of the Central Labour Relations Commission (CLRC), and the Prefectural Labour Relations Commissions (PLRCs) have primary jurisdiction.<sup>23</sup>

There are also Prefectural Labor Bureaus (established as the prefectural branches of the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare) that “offer advices and/or give guidance upon request, to one or both parties of a specific labor dispute.”<sup>24</sup>

The Ministry of Justice has established the Human Rights Conciliator System to assist people resolve issues including labor problems.

Labor disputes filed in court are referred to the three-member Labor Tribunal Committee (composed of a judge, one representative of the workers and another from employers who have great knowledge and experience on labor disputes) which not only mediates but also issues judgment,<sup>25</sup> employs “non-contentious” procedures,<sup>26</sup> and tries to resolve the issues promptly in three sessions as much as possible. In case mediation fails, the committee makes a judgment that determines the rights of the parties involved. This judgment

resolves the issues involved, as well as other related matters. It can include an order to make payments.

The Labor Tribunal Committee judgment has the same nature as amicable judicial settlement. However, once disputed by any of the parties involved, the judgment loses effect and the district court automatically assumes jurisdiction over the case as if an appeal has been made.

For issues not related to labor, complaints against companies are filed in court mainly as tort cases. Victims can file cases against companies as well as the national and prefectural governments to seek remedy for the injury sustained.<sup>27</sup>

In addition to the administrative and judicial remedies, Japan has established the National Contact Point (NCP) which implements the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and thus acts as “a framework for exchanging information on a regular basis (four times per year in principle) with relevant business communities and labour organisations.”<sup>28</sup> It provides “a place for discussion and ... support[s] the resolution of specific instances with the implementation of efficient and timely measures by the parties involved, in compliance with any applicable laws.”<sup>29</sup> Complaints regarding operations of Japanese companies outside Japan can be filed with the Japanese NCP. The Japanese NCP reviews each complaint in accordance with the OECD Guidelines and its own Procedural Guidelines.



### Problems Affecting Access to Justice

As in many other countries, the Japanese tend to avoid resorting to judicial remedies due to the financial costs, as well as the effort and time needed to pursue complaints to completion. There can be a social stigma involved as in the cases of pollution-related diseases.<sup>30</sup> Affected people might not pursue claims for fear of being identified as having such diseases and suffer discrimination as a result. There is the lack of lawyers, and legal assistance system, in many areas outside the major cities to help people pursue cases in court. Finally, formalities of court procedures discourage people from going to court.

The major pollution cases in Japan would not have been pursued in court without the support of volunteer lawyers and legal organizations, alongside medical doctors and scientists.<sup>31</sup> Many other cases likely did not reach the court due to absence of such support.

Efforts to obtain remedies from the government, on the other hand, is hindered by the strict and limited standards being used to determine the existence of problems – from *karoshi* and *karojisatsu* to diseases caused by industrial pollution or commercial products. The claims of victims have either been rejected or not filed at all.<sup>32</sup> In the cases of *Minamata* and *Itai-itai* diseases, the court had ruled that the standards used by the government were too strict and limited to be able to provide support to victims.

The reform of the administrative and judicial remedies on labor issues during the last two decades was undertaken to address the rising number of individual labor disputes. The court-appointed Labor Tribunal Committee seems to be working. The establishment of the Japanese NCP as a concrete response to the need to address overseas operations of Japanese companies based on international human rights and labor standards is an important development. However, there are many issues raised on how the Japanese NCP has been responding to the cases brought before it.<sup>33</sup>

### Concluding Note

There is considerable improvement in the recognition of human rights as matter of concern in the operations of Japanese companies. But there is still a need to evaluate the practical measures being undertaken by the companies in terms of access to justice. The existing issues affecting workers, surrounding communities, and other people affected by company operations justify the necessity of reviewing the dispute resolution measures in order to serve justice to affected people.

*Jefferson R. Plantilla is the Chief Researcher of HURIGHTS OSAKA.*

*For further information, please contact HURIGHTS OSAKA.*

### Endnotes

- \* This article largely draws from HURIGHTS OSAKA's report, "Human Rights and Japanese Companies," that will appear in the forthcoming publication, *Bridging Human Rights Principles and Business Realities in Northeast Asia* (tentative title), 2014.
- 1 The UN Global Compact participants include academic institutions, non-governmental organizations, foundations and local governments. For Japanese "business" participants visit: [www.unglobalcompact.org/participants/search?business\\_type=2&commit=Search&cop\\_status=all&country\[\]=95&joined\\_after=&joined\\_before=&keyword=&listing\\_status\\_id=all&organization\\_type\\_id=&page=1&sector\\_id=all&utf8=%E2%9C%93](http://www.unglobalcompact.org/participants/search?business_type=2&commit=Search&cop_status=all&country[]=95&joined_after=&joined_before=&keyword=&listing_status_id=all&organization_type_id=&page=1&sector_id=all&utf8=%E2%9C%93).
- 2 International Organization for Standardization (ISO), [www.iso.org/iso/home/about.htm](http://www.iso.org/iso/home/about.htm)
- 3 OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises, [www.oecd.org/.../0,3343,de\\_2649\\_34889\\_2397532\\_1\\_1\\_1\\_1,00.html](http://www.oecd.org/.../0,3343,de_2649_34889_2397532_1_1_1_1,00.html).
- 4 Global Reporting Initiative, [www.globalreporting.org/Information/about-gri/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.globalreporting.org/Information/about-gri/Pages/default.aspx).
- 5 Equator Principles, [www.equator-principles.com/](http://www.equator-principles.com/)
- 6 See [www.jil.go.jp/english/jwl/2012-2013/07/p.75\\_7-60.pdf](http://www.jil.go.jp/english/jwl/2012-2013/07/p.75_7-60.pdf).
- 7 平成24年度個別労働紛争解決制度施行状況 Dispute-settlement-system-for-individual-labor-issues enforcement situation in 2012 fiscal year) [www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/houdou/2r985200000339uj.html](http://www.mhlw.go.jp/stf/houdou/2r985200000339uj.html).
- 8 Shino Naito, "Workplace Bullying in Japan, "

- Workplace Bullying and Harassment  
2013 JILPT Seminar on Workplace Bullying and Harassment, *JILPT REPORT* No. 12 2013, page 114.
- 9 "25% of pregnant workers experienced harassment," *The Japan News*, 31 July 2013.
- 10 Hiroshi Fujita, "Karoshi is sharply increasing -- A look at the background," *Rodo Soken Journal*, No. 52, July 2013, [www.yuiuidori.net/soken/jour/2013/j\\_52.html](http://www.yuiuidori.net/soken/jour/2013/j_52.html).
- 11 Table 17, Employee excluding executive of company or corporation by type of employment, *Summary of the November 2013 Survey Results*, Labor Force Survey, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, [www.stat.go.jp/english/data/roudou/results/month/index.htm](http://www.stat.go.jp/english/data/roudou/results/month/index.htm).
- 12 Masato Shikata, "Is Temporary Work "Dead End" in Japan?: Labor Market Regulation and Transition to Regular Employment," Japan Institute for Labor Policy and Training, [www.jil.go.jp/english/JLR/documents/2012/JLR35\\_shikata.pdf](http://www.jil.go.jp/english/JLR/documents/2012/JLR35_shikata.pdf)
- 13 See Kazuo Sugeno, "Judicial Reform and the Reform of the Labor Dispute Resolution System," *Japan Labor Review* No. 1, 2006, page 5, available at [www.jil.go.jp/english/JLR/documents/2006/JLR09\\_Sugeno.pdf](http://www.jil.go.jp/english/JLR/documents/2006/JLR09_Sugeno.pdf). See also John Benson, "The Development and Structure of Japanese Enterprise Unions," *The Asia-Pacific Journal - Japan Focus*, [www.japanfocus.org/-John-benson/2938](http://www.japanfocus.org/-John-benson/2938).
- 14 Nippon Keidanren, Interim Recommendations on Accepting Non-Japanese Workers - Bring Dynamism of Diversity into Japan by Opening Doors to Transnational Human Resources, 14 November 2003, [www.keidanren.or.jp/english/policy/2003/108.html](http://www.keidanren.or.jp/english/policy/2003/108.html).
- 15 Nippon Keidanren, Recommendations on Accepting Non-Japanese Workers, 14 April 2004, [www.keidanren.or.jp/english/policy/2004/029.html](http://www.keidanren.or.jp/english/policy/2004/029.html).
- 16 Nippon Keidanren, Interim Recommendations, op. cit.
- 17 "Foreign trainee programs to be reviewed," *The Japan News*, 27 October 2013, page 1.
- 18 See Karolien Bais, Pauline Overeem, and Bent Gehrt, "Labour issues in the Thai electronics industry," *On the Spot*, April 2012, report available at Good Electronics, <http://goodelectronics.org/news-en/labour-issues-in-the-thai-electronics-industry>; Rieka Rahadiana and Matthew Bigg, "Strike-hit Indonesia to improve labor conditions," [www.reuters.com/article/2012/10/04/us-indonesia-labour-idUSBRE8930MV20121004](http://www.reuters.com/article/2012/10/04/us-indonesia-labour-idUSBRE8930MV20121004); Junichi Onuma, Result of Water Analysis, February 2013, [www.foejapan.org/en/aid/jbic02/rt/2013Apr.html](http://www.foejapan.org/en/aid/jbic02/rt/2013Apr.html).
- 19 *Concluding observations on the third periodic report of Japan*, adopted by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights at its fiftieth session (29 April-17 May 2013), E/C.12/JPN/CO/3, 17 May 2013.
- 20 Eri Osaka, "Reevaluating the Tort Liability System in Japan," *Arizona Journal of International & Comparative Law*, Vol. 26, No. 2, 2009, pages 409-420; Amagasaki Group for Protection of life and health from Asbestos, [www.asbestos-ama.net/?p=891#more-891](http://www.asbestos-ama.net/?p=891#more-891) (*in Japanese*) (as of 29 November 2013).
- 21 Ronald C. Brown, "Comparative Alternative Dispute Resolution for Individual Labor Disputes in Japan, China, and the United States: Lessons From Asia?," *St. John's Law Review*, 86:543-577, page 553.
- 22 The Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare lists the following acts as unfair labor practices:  
- Dismissal or other disadvantageous treatment by reason of being a union member  
- Rejection of collective bargaining without due cause  
- Control and intervention in union activities and financial assistance to unions  
- Disadvantageous treatment by reason of filing of complaints in the LRC. See Flowchart of procedures for handling unfair labour practice cases, [www.mhlw.go.jp/english/org/policy/central-labour1.html](http://www.mhlw.go.jp/english/org/policy/central-labour1.html).
- 23 See Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare for more details on the procedures regarding cases of unfair labour practice, *ibid*.
- 24 NEWS & INSIGHTS, Sidley, [www.sidley.com/Labor-Disputes-In-Japan-Overview-Of-Substantive-Law-And-Dispute-Settlement-Procedures-08-31-2011/](http://www.sidley.com/Labor-Disputes-In-Japan-Overview-Of-Substantive-Law-And-Dispute-Settlement-Procedures-08-31-2011/).
- 25 Katsutoshi Kezuka, "Significance and Tasks Involved in the Establishment of the Labor Tribunal System," *Japan Labor Review* vol. 3, no. 1, 2006, pages 16-17.
- 26 *Ibid.*, page 17.
- 27 See Osaka, op. cit.

(Continued on page 13)

## Rise of Hate Speech in Japan\*

The International Movement Against All Forms of Discrimination and Racism - Japan Committee

The recent cases of anti-Korean demonstrations and hate speech marches including the speech by a Japanese girl calling for the "massacre" of the resident Koreans have drawn attention and raised concerns within and outside Japan.<sup>1</sup> While the causes of these incidents are attributed to various factors, some of the crucial backgrounds are the complete lack of Anti-Discrimination Law, poor understanding of the general public about the history and culture of minority communities and their human rights issues, the lack of appropriate understanding by the Japanese government of the international human rights standards, and the lack of willingness of the State to actively implement them. Although the Prime Minister as well as the Justice Minister of Japan expressed concern, the government has so far taken no concrete action.

### *Zaitokukai*

The Zainichi Tokken wo Yurusanai Shimin no Kai (Group of citizens who do not tolerate privileges for ethnic Korean residents in Japan) popularly known as *Zaitokukai*, a group of far- or ultra-right activists that oppose granting any rights, even limited ones such as welfare entitlements, to long-term Korean and Chinese residents of

Japan, has been organizing demonstrations, attacks and other activities involving hate speech. *Zaitokukai* also uses the internet as another medium for hate speech and to spread racist ideas and biased information meant to incite hatred and racial discrimination. *Zaitokukai* has uploaded onto several websites videos of many of its hate speech activities.

In Tokyo, *Zaitokukai* has been holding its anti-Korean marches in "Shin-Okubo Koreatown" since 2012. It was reported that the protest started in 25 August 2012 with about five hundred members marching through the streets of the neighborhood, displaying the "militaristic" "kyokujitsuki" (rising-sun flag), and chant[ing] such slogans as "Kankokujin wa kaere" (South Koreans go home) and "Chosenjin wa dete yuke!" (Koreans get out!).<sup>2</sup> The protests continued in 2013.<sup>3</sup>

### **Hate speech against Koreans in Kyoto Prefecture**

*Zaitokukai* held its first major anti-Korean activity in Kyoto prefecture on 4 December 2009 when its members attacked the Kyoto Chosen Dai-ichi Primary School. In front of the school play-ground, the *Zaitokukai* members hurled abusive, discriminatory and intimidating words to the school and people

inside as well as Korean residents in general. They also damaged school facilities.

*Zaitokukai* filmed the whole attack and uploaded the video onto the internet. The school also documented the incident. Members of the police, who were present at that time, simply observed the incident and did not do anything. The school filed a criminal complaint against *Zaitokukai* on 21 December 2009. On 14 January 2010, *Zaitokukai* organized another hate speech demonstration against the school and the resident Koreans using loudspeakers on the street in front of the school. It also ignored a court order to stop the acts of assault and defamation. Four members of *Zaitokukai* who played the main role in organizing these actions were arrested and prosecuted in August 2010. The court convicted the four members on 21 April 2011 for forcible obstruction of business, destruction of property and defamation of the school. The court decision, however, did not consider the racist ideas and motivations or hate speech against a specific group of people. It thus failed to address the root causes of the suffering of the targeted victims of hate speech, racism and discrimination. The accused even made discriminatory

remarks in the court throughout the judicial process.

The attack caused enormous adverse psychological impact on and damage to the victims, especially the traumatic experience suffered by the primary school children. The school filed a damage suit against *Zaitokukai* on 28 June 2010 demanding compensation for the damage suffered and still being suffered. On 7 October 2013, the Kyoto District Court banned the *Zaitokukai* from “demonstrating near a pro-Pyongyang elementary school, ruling that the group’s words blared through sound trucks were “extremely insulting and discriminatory.” The court also ordered *Zaitokukai* to pay about “12.26 million yen (\$126,400)” in damages.<sup>5</sup> The court clearly stated in its judgment that *Zaitokukai*’s activities constituted a violation of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination that Japan has ratified.

### **Hate Speech Referring to “Massacre” of Koreans in Osaka city**

On 24 February 2013, *Zaitokukai* organized an anti-Korean demonstration in a Korean neighborhood in Tsuruhashi district in Osaka city featuring a fourteen-year-old girl. Using a loudspeaker, the girl referred to the Korean residents as “piece of crap” and expressed her strong hatred towards them as well as her willingness to kill them all. Referring to the Nanking massacre, with the Japanese army killing an estimated 250,000 Chinese civilians in

1937, she said that her group would massacre the Koreans in the district if they did not leave Japan. The other participants of the demonstration cheered her up during and after her speech. Members of the police were present during the demonstration but were only observing the situation. The scene was filmed and even uploaded onto YouTube.<sup>6</sup> The YouTube video shows her giving the following statements:

Hello, all shit-Koreans living in Tsuruhashi. And hello to all the fellow Japanese present here. I hate the Koreans so much that I can’t stand it and I just want to kill them all now. If Koreans behave with this arrogance further, we will carry out Tsuruhashi massacre like Nanking massacre! (other participants shouted “yeah that’s right!”) If Japanese get angry, it will happen! We will start a massacre! Go back to your country before the massacre gets started! This is Japan, but not Korean peninsula! Go back! (other participants shouted “go back!”)

### **Hate Speech Against the Suisheisha Museum in Nara Prefecture**

On 5 January 2011, the Vice-chairperson of *Zaitokukai* visited the human rights museum of *Suisheisha* in Nara Prefecture. The museum has a permanent exhibition on the history of *Suisheisha* (Levellers Association of Buraku People). It had a temporary exhibition on the history of occupation of Korea by Japan. The Vice-chairperson of *Zaitokukai* complained about that part of the exhibition. On 22 January in the same year, he returned to

the museum and gave an hour-long hate speech against Japanese people of Buraku origin and resident Koreans in Japan using a loudspeaker in front of the museum. The speech contained numerous discriminatory and intimidating words towards the two groups. A video of his speech was uploaded on the internet, and caused agony and anxiety among the affected people.

On 22 August 2011, the museum filed a civil suit against the Vice-chairperson of *Zaitokukai* for defamation of the museum. On 25 June 2012, the court ruled in favor of the museum and ordered him to pay compensation amounting to 1.5 million Japanese Yen. Google deleted the video of his speech in its website upon request of the museum after the court ruling was issued.

### **Hate Speech by Public Figures**

Without a clear legal definition of discrimination, or an anti-discrimination law, classifying actions as hate speech poses a difficulty. Japanese public figures have been making comments and remarks that are intended, or have the effect of, to discriminate, defame and incite hatred and violence against certain groups of people.

The former Governor of Tokyo, during his term, had been making derogatory and discriminatory comments about people from China, Korea and Taiwan, elderly women as well as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender. He often referred to them as “Sangokjin,” a word with highly discriminatory



implications and used to refer to criminals or thieves. The comment on the “necessity” of having comfort women during the war by the current mayor of Osaka city raised so much concern within and outside Japan including the United Nations Secretary General as well as the Committee Against Torture (CAT).<sup>7</sup>

### Conclusion

Japan does not yet have a law prohibiting any form of discrimination or incitement to such discrimination or hatred. Victims of hate speech, such as the resident Koreans, have the option of using existing legal measures to protect their rights. However, the crimes that can be linked to hate speech are mainly defamation, damage to property, or illegal entry of private property. In almost all cases, human rights violations or discrimination identified and claimed by the victims in accordance with the international human rights standards including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights have not been reflected in the court judgments. Thus, there is no appropriate remedy at all for the victims from a human rights perspective. It is regrettable that these crucial issues are not properly, or not at all, discussed in the reports of Japan to the human rights treaty monitoring bodies.

In addition, the increasing frequency and intensity of hate speech and demonstrations against certain groups such as resident Koreans and Chinese can be regarded as closely connected to the current state of

relationship of Japan with certain countries and the relevant territorial, historical and diplomatic issues between them. As can be seen in other cases in the past and at present, the current situation embraces various factors that can escalate and even lead to open conflict or state of war causing numerous and diverse human rights violations.

While discussion is still ongoing on “how” to deal with hate speech, it is certainly necessary to have proper and decisive action to stop and prevent further escalation of hate speeches, demonstrations and other acts of incitement to hatred.

At the same time, discriminatory remarks and statements that incite discrimination and hatred towards certain groups of people have been repeatedly made by public figures including high-level government officials and governors of municipalities. These remarks and statements by influential persons can have negative impact on the general public and can even be seen as accepting or even facilitating the act of discrimination, hate speech and demonstrations against certain groups of people. So far measures to address this issue or much less challenge these persons have not been taken.

Considering the current situation, the government should answer to a set of questions: What measures have been taken or are being planned by the government of Japan to

- Address statements, speeches and demonstrations targeting certain groups of people, in particular Koreans, that incite hatred and discrimination towards them?
- Address the suffering and needs of the victims of discrimination and hate speech including death threats and calls for “massacre”?
- Address discriminatory remarks and statements made by public figures that incite discrimination and hatred towards certain groups of people such as minorities?

*For further information, please contact IMADR-JC Secretariat, 6 Floor, 1-7-1, Irifune, Chuo-ku, Tokyo 104-0042, Japan; ph (813)6280-3100; fax (813) 6280-3102; e-mail: imadr[at]imadr.org; http://imadr.org.*

### Endnotes

- \* This is an edited and updated version of the *Report to the Human Rights Committee on the issue of hate speech against minorities in Japan - For its consideration and adoption of the List of Issues to Japan*, jointly submitted for the 109th Session of the Human Rights Committee (14 October - 1 November 2013) by the authors.
- 1 For media reports in English, refer to [www.japantimes.co.jp/tag/hate-speech/](http://www.japantimes.co.jp/tag/hate-speech/); <http://mainichi.jp/english/english/newsselect/news/>

*(Continued on page 15)*

# Fourth International Conference on Human Rights Education

Shiow Duan Hawang and Sev Ozdowski

The Fourth International Conference on Human Rights Education: Global Convergence and Local Practice was held from the 21st to 26th of November 2013 in Taipei, Taiwan. The conference was convened by Professor Shiow Duan Hawang and hosted by the Chang Fo-Chuan Center for the Study of Human Rights, Human Rights Program, and Department of Political Science at Soochow University, Taipei. Soochow University is the first private university in Taiwan, and has over 15,000 students.

The Chang Fo-Chuan Center for the Study of Human Rights at Soochow University was founded in 2001, the first human rights research institute in Taiwan. It aims to promote human rights education and research in Taiwan, train human rights non-governmental organization (NGO) workers, and contribute to international exchange. The undergraduate Human Rights Program was set up in 2004 and then in 2008 the master human rights program was established. It is designed for students to deepen their understanding of human rights through the integration of theory with practice.

## Conference Objectives

The 4th conference had the following objectives:

- To support and promote the United Nations' objectives

in human rights education (HRE);

- To explore the role of HRE in advancement of peace, democracy and multicultural understanding around the world;
- To foster HRE across the Asia-Pacific region and to build networks and dialogue;
- To discuss and compare how different countries deal with the transitional justice during the period of political transition;
- To seek advancement of HRE in Taiwan through incorporation of best international practice in school curricula;
- To discuss and debate the entanglement of Asian Values and Universal Human Rights Standards in Asia;
- To explore the interplay of the global, regional and local mechanisms within the process of implementation;
- To discuss the role of human rights museum in HRE;
- To explore the relations between Globalization, Civic Education and HRE;
- To discuss and explore the diverse issues in different areas of human rights, such as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender, (LGBT), Abolition of Death Penalty, Migrant Workers and Marriage Immigration, and other related topics.

Taiwan has left the United Nations for forty-two years and was not allowed to participate in many international organizations. The Taiwanese organizers wanted to show their eagerness to keep contact the international community and abide by the international human rights standards. Thus the conference theme was "Global Convergence and Local Practice."

## Participants

The Conference attracted high quality national and international speakers with diverse backgrounds and expertise - from leaders of national human rights organizations and well-known human rights education experts and researchers to NGO practitioners and students working in the area of human rights education.

There were five hundred thirty eight participants, from thirty eight countries (with two hundred seventy-four male and two hundred sixty-four female participants). There were one hundred forty-five international delegates from five different continents, with five participants sponsored by Aus AID. There was a broad representation of civil society with a large number of students (41 percent), teachers, academics (23 percent), activists, human rights advocates, human rights

education practitioners, NGO workers (19 percent), professionals (1 percent), government representatives (3 percent), and others (13 percent) interested in human rights education.

Some of the represented organizations and institutions were the Legislative Yuan of Taiwan, Council of Europe, Centre for Architecture and Human Rights in Canada, Australian Council for Human Rights Education, Chinese Association for Human Rights, Presidential Advisory Committee on Human Rights in Taiwan, Human Rights Commission at Hamadan Bar association in Iran, Estonia Institute of Human Rights, Taiwan Foundation for Democracy, Asia-Pacific Human Rights Information Center (HURIGHTS OSAKA) in Japan, Uganda Coalition for Human Rights Education, Centre for Citizenship and Human Rights Education at University of Leeds in UK, Indonesia's Coalition for Justice and Democracy, Institute for Population, Family and Children Studies (IPFCS) in Viet Nam, and Hong Kong Human Rights Monitor.

### Conference Program

The Conference program covered a broad range of human rights education issues, the topics include:

- The Role of the Human Rights Museum
- Human Rights Education (four panels)
- National Report on the Implementation of the Two International Covenants
- United Nations and the International Legal Framework

- Rights Defending Documentaries of China
- Women's Rights and LGBT (two panels)
- Democracy, Human Rights and Multiculturalism
- Education on Abolition of Death Penalty (two panels)
- Human Rights Practice and Public Interest Groups in China
- Prison Reform in Taiwan
- Image of Human Rights, Taiwan
- Migrant and Refugee Rights
- Asian Regional NGOs (two panels)
- Translating Educators' Commitments to Justice and Human Rights into Practice
- State in Transition (two panels)
- Environmental Rights (two panels)
- Labor Rights in Taiwan
- Legal Pluralism and the Rule of Law
- Training of Government Officials
- Taiwan Rural Front
- Rule of Law Education in Hong Kong
- Prison: Treatment and Reform
- Militarization of Border Islands and the Right to Peace
- Human Rights and Civilization
- Education on Rule of Law in China
- Reflection on Human Rights Journey: from Authoritarianism to Democratic Rule
- Social Welfare Rights
- Rights to Health and Children's Rights.

### Networking among Participants

The Conference provided an opportunity for participants and

presenters to network and discuss issues pertaining to human rights education, to share knowledge and skills in the facilitation of human rights education and best practice ideas in the area of human rights, peace and social justice. One of the most prevalent comments at the Conference was appreciation of the opportunity to network with like-minded practitioners and academics. The request for further networking has been addressed by referring all participants to the existing Human Rights Education Network at <http://www.hre2013.org.tw/>.

### Jingmei and Green Island Human Rights Parks Tours

The Conference provided an opportunity for the participants to visit Jingmei Human Rights Park and the Green Island Human Rights Park. Thirty participants joined the tour to Jingmei Human Rights Park in Taipei. In Jingmei Human Rights Park, the participants had a conversation with two former political victims during the era of the White Terror. In the afternoon, the participants visited the February 28th Memorial Hall, and the Machangding Memorial Park where political prisoners were executed during the White Terror. The next day, the participants visited the Palace Museum and Longshang Si and the historical part of the city of Taipei.

Green Island is a small volcanic island in the Pacific Ocean, about thirty-three kilometers off the eastern coast of Taiwan. During the martial law period, the island was a place for political prisoners and those

who were considered the most dangerous criminals and gangsters. It was an isolated island, which served as a perfect spot for political prisoners and can be easily compared to Robben Island of South Africa.

Sixty-five participants visited Green Island. They had a discussion with two former political prisoners, Mr. Tsai and Mr. Chen. Mr. Tsai was sentenced to ten years in 1950, and sent to Green Island the following year. He was arrested due to his participation in a study group. Mr. Chen was arrested in 1971 for the crime he did not commit, and was jailed in Jingmei (then a military camp). In 1972, he was sent to Green Island. He was finally released in 1983.

After a meeting with the two political victims, the participants decided to adopt a resolution urging the Taiwan Government to address the situation of former political prisoners.

### **Resolution Adopted on the Political Prisoners**

The participants of the 4th International Conference on Human Rights Education heard directly from former political prisoners in Taiwan while discussing the situation of human rights education in the world. They acknowledge the positive activities of the Taiwanese Government to compensate the victims of the human rights violations during Martial Law period in Taiwan and their efforts to establish a human rights museum in Taipei and on Green Island. But they are also concerned about the unresolved situation of the former political prisoners.

This Conference therefore calls on the Government of Taiwan to:

1. Provide a formal public apology to former political prisoners for their suffering under martial law;
2. Provide publicly funded rehabilitation services to all former political prisoners;
3. Provide unrestricted public access to all government records about political prisoners;
4. Ensure that the past human rights violations are acknowledged and taught to school children in Taiwan in order to promote democracy and the rule of law;
5. Ensure that individuals responsible for human rights violations during martial law are prosecuted;
6. Establish an independent commission of truth and justice to record the stories about persecution from former political prisoners and to facilitate reconciliation and prosecution of those that are responsible for human rights violations;
7. Remove the criminal records of former political prisoners.

### **Promotion of Human Rights Education**

The human rights education theme of the Conference was promoted widely across a broad range of mediums, an extensive media and communications strategy that included media releases, articles and advertisements in internal and external publications, and web presence maintained via the Conference website, Facebook, and Twitter. There were media exposures on print media and broadcast media (television),

especially the Symposium on Human Rights Museum and speeches of former Vice-president and the Speaker of the Legislative Yuan. The news of 2013HRE conference can be searched via CNA News, Udn News, *Liberty Times*, *Taiwan Times*, *TSSD News*, *Epoch Times*, *Coolloud*, *New Net News*, *Lipao News*, SETTV, FTV, CTV, TVBS, CtiTV.

### **Concluding Statement**

The international human rights education conference series were initiated by Dr Sev Ozdowski, Adjunct Professor of the Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies at the University of Sydney and Director of Equity and Diversity at the University of Western Sydney. Sev is also President of the Australian Council for Human Rights Education.

The first international conference on human rights education was held in Sydney, Australia in 2010, followed by Durban, South Africa in 2001, and Krakow, Poland in 2012. The fifth conference will be held at the American University in Washington DC, USA in November 2014.

*Professor Shiow Duan Hawang is the Director of The Chang Fochuan Center for the Study of Human Rights, and former Chair of the Department of Political Science, Soochow University, Taiwan.*

*For further information, please contact Sev Ozdowski, PO Box A959, Sydney South, NSW 1235, Australia; ph (612) 9678 7375; e-mails: sevozdo@gmail.com; s.ozdowski@uws.edu.au.*



# Human Rights Events in the Asia-Pacific

The Doha Centre for Media Freedom (DCMF) organized six training workshops for Syrian journalists in November 2013 in Turkey and December 2013 in Jordan. The first workshop focused on international standards of quality, the second workshop on online journalism, and the third workshop on safety. Additionally, three training workshops were held in Jordan between 3 and 17 December 2013. The workshops were part of DCMF's Ali Hassan Al-Jaber Safety Training for Journalists program launched earlier in 2013. The project is the culmination of the Doha Centre's efforts to engage the emerging Syrian media landscape. Organized in conjunction with Community Media Network and Arab Reporters for Investigative Journalism, these workshops focused on international standards of quality, radio journalism, and investigative journalism. For more information contact: Doha Centre for Media Freedom, Doha, Qatar; ph (974)

4418-2208; e-mail: [contact@dc4mf.org](mailto:contact@dc4mf.org); [www.dc4mf.org](http://www.dc4mf.org).

The Institute for Women's Studies in the Arab World (IWSAW) successfully completed its project on Gender Training for Iraqi Academics and Researchers. The project focused on developing the research writing skills of nineteen Iraqi researchers (Baghdad and Erbil) on how to undertake research projects on women and gender studies. The project developed the participants' awareness of gender-related issues, concepts, and methodologies which allowed them to tackle hitherto unknown and unique topics in their research papers relevant to the current Iraqi context. For more information contact: Institute for Women's Studies in the Arab World, Lebanese American University, P.O. Box: 13-5053, Chouran, Beirut 1102 2801 Lebanon; ph (961)-1-791645; e-mail: [iwsaw@lau.edu.lb](mailto:iwsaw@lau.edu.lb); <http://iwsaw.lau.edu.lb/>

Bridges Across Borders Southeast Asia Community Legal Education Initiative (BABSEA CLE) will hold its 2014 International Legal Studies Externship Clinic during the May - August 2014 period. The Externship Clinic focuses on understanding the dynamic relationship between academic knowledge and its practical application to legal education and access to justice issues that arise in communities. The program is not limited to students studying in the legal field; it is also open to non-law students, people who have graduated, and those who are already professionally working. For more information contact: Phatharadanai Chaiyayong, Externship Coordinator, BABSEA CLE, 17/17 Soi 6, Tanon Suandok, T. Suthep, A. Muang, Chiang Mai, Thailand, 50200; ph (66) 5327 3980; e-mail: [phat@babseacle.org](mailto:phat@babseacle.org), [clinic@babseacle.org](mailto:clinic@babseacle.org); [www.babseacle.org](http://www.babseacle.org)

## Human Rights in Japanese Companies

(Continued from page 6)

28 Procedural Guidelines for the Japanese National Contact Point (NCP) under the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises (MNEs) (Provisional Translation) 25 November 2011, [www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/gaiko/csr/pdfs/ncp\\_jm\\_e.pdf](http://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/gaiko/csr/pdfs/ncp_jm_e.pdf).

29 Ibid., pages 1-2.

30 See Minamata Disease Municipal Museum, [www.minamata195651.jp/list\\_en.html](http://www.minamata195651.jp/list_en.html).

31 See for example Masanori Kaji, "Role of experts and public participation in pollution control: the case of Itai-itai disease in Japan," *Ethics in Science and Environmental Politics*, 12, 99-111, 6 July 2012.

32 Hiroshi Fujita, "Karoshi is sharply increasing -- A look at the background," *Rodo Soken Journal*, No. 52, July 2013, [www.yuiyuidori.net/soken/jour/2013/j\\_52.html](http://www.yuiyuidori.net/soken/jour/2013/j_52.html).

33 See Cases for Japanese NCP, Trade Union Cases, TUAC-OECD MNE Guidelines, [www.tuacoecdmneguidelines.org/Cases.aspx?organisationid=22752&NCP=Y](http://www.tuacoecdmneguidelines.org/Cases.aspx?organisationid=22752&NCP=Y).

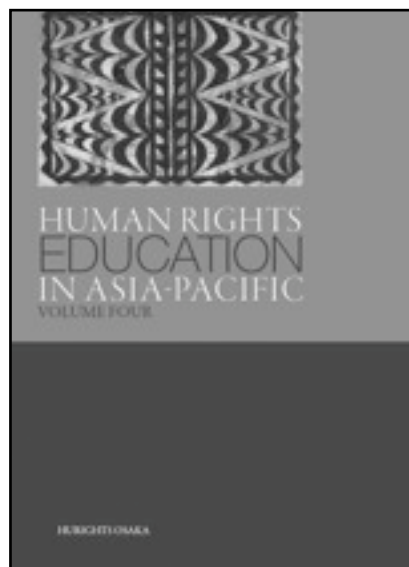
## 2013 HURIGHTS OSAKA Publications

HURIGHTS OSAKA published three books and a primer in 2013. The three books relate to two themes, namely, human rights education and human rights centers. The fourth publication is a Japanese-language primer on human rights-based access to justice.

The fourth volume of *Human Rights Education in Asia-Pacific* came out in mid-2013. This volume contains articles relating to the following sections: sectoral education, training for professionals, formal education, and surveys and research. The articles in the volume include diverse activities and programs such as theater, legal literacy, regional award for TV programs on child rights, national human rights institution training programs, city government-supported public space for human rights project, regional training projects, international networking program, and social education program. The authors consist of people who implement the programs and activities from Asia (Bangladesh, Pakistan, Mongolia, Korea, Taiwan and Japan) and the Pacific (Papua New Guinea, Vanuatu, and Australia). The volume, as in previous volumes, has Appendices that include declarations on human rights by young people in Japan who refuse to go to school and two local governments in Japan and Korea.

*Human Rights Education in Asia-Pacific* is an annual publication that promotes

various types of initiatives on human rights education as well as related activities.



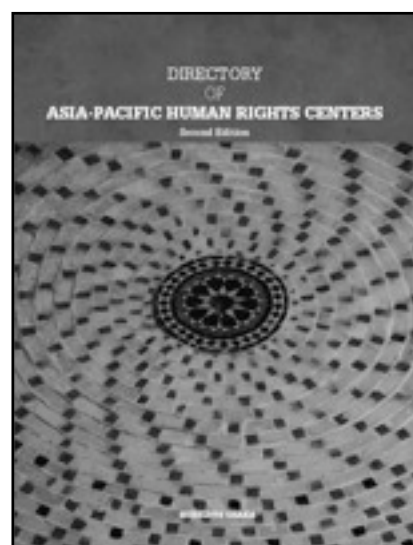
HURIGHTS OSAKA published the second edition of the *Directory of Asia-Pacific Human Rights Centers*. The first edition of the Directory was published in 2008. The 2008 edition profiled one hundred eighty-one human rights centers in different countries in Asia and the Pacific. The second edition has profiled more human rights centers in many more countries in Asia and the Pacific. There is a considerable increase in the number of profiled human rights centers in West and Central Asia, while a number of human rights centers that are no longer operating have been deleted from the list. An appendix lists other human rights centers that have no profile so far, yet identified as existing in many countries.

The center profiles provide succinct information on the

history, objectives, programs, activities, publications, and special concerns of the human rights centers.

The human rights centers are generally classified into three types: non-governmental, university-based, and government-supported institutions. They cover local, national and regional (Asian or Pacific level) institutions.

As defined in the 2008 edition of the Directory, a human rights center is an institution engaged in gathering and disseminating information related to human rights. The information refers to the international human rights instruments, documents of the United Nations human rights bodies, reports on human rights situations, analyses of human rights issues, human rights programs and activities, and other human rights-related information that are relevant to the needs of the communities in the Asia-Pacific.



HURIGHTS OSAKA published the last in the series of subregional publications on human rights resource materials in 2013. This is the *Human Rights Education in the Northeast Asian School Systems: Resource Material*. As indicated in the title of the book, the contents of this publication are drawn from the existing materials in Northeast Asia, the existing government policies related to human rights education, relevant school

curriculums, and the existing government and non-governmental programs and projects on human rights education. The book highlights very concrete programs and projects being undertaken by local and national governments and by non-governmental organizations. The main content consists of human rights lesson plans on various topics for primary, lower secondary and upper secondary school levels.

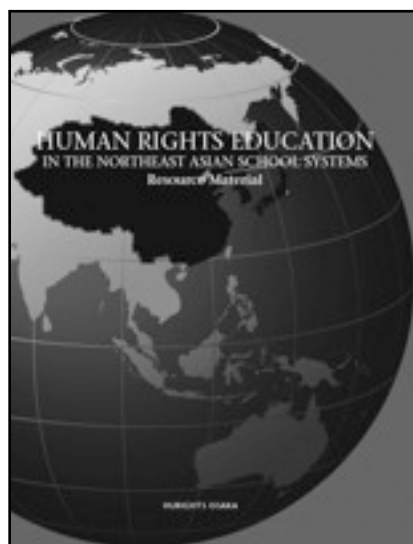
The book was prepared in cooperation with educators from China, Hong Kong, Japan, Korea, Mongolia and Taiwan.

Toward the end of the 2013, HURIGHTS OSAKA published as a primer an excerpt from the book *A Manual on Human Rights-Based Approach to Realizing Equal Access to Justice*, published by the Asian Consortium for Human Rights-Based Access to Justice (HRBA2J-Asia) in 2011. The excerpt was translated into



Japanese language. This primer, entitled *Human Rights-Based Approach to Access to Justice*, is part of the Northeast Asian project of HRBA2J-Asia. The primer has Chinese, Korean and Mongolian versions.

All publications are being uploaded onto the website of HURIGHTS OSAKA. Please visit: [www.hurights.or.jp/english/publication.html](http://www.hurights.or.jp/english/publication.html).



## Hate Speech in Japan

(Continued from page 9)

20130710p2a00m0na009000c.html; [www.csmonitor.com/World/Asia-Pacific/2013/0712/Rising-hate-speech-in-Japan-has-even-some-on-far-right-saying-enough](http://www.csmonitor.com/World/Asia-Pacific/2013/0712/Rising-hate-speech-in-Japan-has-even-some-on-far-right-saying-enough); [www.huffingtonpost.com/nancy-snow/japans-hate-speech\\_b\\_3572707.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/nancy-snow/japans-hate-speech_b_3572707.html); <http://japandailynews.com/8-arrested-as-groups-clash-over-anti-korean-demonstrations-in-tokyo-1730707/>; <http://japandailynews.com/youtube-video-of-japanese-girl-on-an->

- anti-korean-rant-goes-viral-0326306/.
- 2 Kuchikomi, *Nationalists converge on Shin-Okubo's Koreatown*, 18 September 2012, [www.japantoday.com/category/kuchikomi/view/nasty-nationalists-converge-on-shin-okubos-koreatown](http://www.japantoday.com/category/kuchikomi/view/nasty-nationalists-converge-on-shin-okubos-koreatown).
- 3 J.T. Quigley, "Japanese Court Rules Against Anti-Korean Hate Group," *The Diplomat*, 8 October 2013, <http://thediplomat.com/2013/10/japanese-court-rules-against-anti-korean-hate-group/>.
- 4 See [www.youtube.com/watch?v=8C1NbntrWDI](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8C1NbntrWDI)
- 5 Gakushi Fujiwara, Kyoto court bans 'hate speech' around school for ethnic Koreans, *The*

- Asahi Shimbun*, 7 October 2013, [https://ajw.asahi.com/article/behind\\_news/social\\_affairs/AJ201310070090](https://ajw.asahi.com/article/behind_news/social_affairs/AJ201310070090).
- 6 See [www.youtube.com/watch?v=4oOW6QJfeoo](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4oOW6QJfeoo).
- 7 See Yoshiaki Kasuga, U.N. secretary-general criticizes Hashimoto's 'comfort women' remark, *The Asahi Shimbun*, 3 June 2013, [http://ajw.asahi.com/article/behind\\_news/politics/AJ201306030070](http://ajw.asahi.com/article/behind_news/politics/AJ201306030070) and the Concluding observations on the second periodic report of Japan, adopted by the Committee at its fiftieth session (6-31 May 2013), CAT/C/JPN/CO/2, 28 June 2013, para 19.

---

# HURIGHTS OSAKA Calendar

HURIGHTS OSAKA is planning to follow-up on the research on business and human rights in the Northeast Asian subregion with the production of a practical resource material. This material will be produced in collaboration with the Northeast Asian members of the Asian Consortium for Human Rights-Based Access to Justice (HRBA2J-Asia)

---



**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.

**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.

FOCUS Asia-Pacific is edited by Osamu Shiraishi, Director of HURIGHTS OSAKA.

**Sender: HURIGHTS OSAKA**

**(Asia-Pacific Human Rights Information Center)**

8F, CE Nishihonmachi Bldg., 1-7-7 Nishihonmachi, Nishi-ku, Osaka 550-0005  
Japan

Phone: (816) 6543-7002

Fax: (816) 6543-7004

E-mail: [webmail@hurights.or.jp](mailto:webmail@hurights.or.jp)

Website: <http://www.hurights.or.jp>



**HURIGHTS OSAKA**