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## *Toward legislation of a Fundamental Law for Buraku Liberation*

### **47th BLL Annual Convention Held**

The 47th annual convention of BLL (the Buraku Liberation League) was held from May 15 to May 17, 1990 in Marugame City, Kagawa Prefecture.

On the first day of the convention, a report of general activity during 1989 was given, and proposals for activity in 1990 were accepted.

On the second day, three divided groups engaged in active discussion concerning the subjects mentioned below and elections were held.

On the third day, reports on the results of the previous day's discussions were given. After questions from five delegates and answers from Mr. Tatsukuni Komori, Secretary-General of BLL Central Headquarters, the 1989 activity report and the activity proposals for 1990 were unanimously accepted.

In conclusion, Mr. Uesugi, President of BLL, addressed the convention on behalf of BLL Central Headquarters as follows:

...The Buraku liberation movement has entered its third phase, which means that BLL must set a good example of solidarity with the various other organizations promoting peace, human rights and democracy. Under these circumstances, 1) Legislation of a Fundamental Law for Buraku Liberation, 2) Victory in the struggle for a retrial in the SAYAMA case, 3) IMADR-UN-NGO registration and establishment of IMADR-Japan Committee, 4) Early achievement of a 3-year plan for enlargement of the Buraku organization are very important.

Mr. Uesugi assigned great importance to the

realization of these goals in commemoration of the 70th anniversary of SUIHEISHA (National Levelers' Association) in 1992.

The following points were highlighted in the convention:

1. A total of five dietmen from the Buraku Liberation League are playing an important part in the diet. Among them, Mr. Takashi Tanihata was newly elected in the House of Councilors election held last year. The results of this election brought about a big change in the majority ratio between conservatives to reformers. Also, in the House of Representatives election held this year, the Japan Socialist Party made big progress and four BLL representatives were elected. They are Mr. Tatsukuni Komori, Mr. Takumi Ueda and Mr. Ryu Matsumoto. Another Mr. Matsumoto has already performed his duty in the House of Councilors. Therefore, we can expect more favorable conditions in the struggle for the passage of a Fundamental Law for Buraku people.

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2. Twenty-five years have passed since a reply from the Dowa Policy Council was announced, and only two years have passed since Law on Specific Governmental Budgetary Measure concerning the Projects Designated for the (DOWA) Area Improvement was implemented. Under these circumstances, BLL members discussed ways of securing the passage of a Fundamental Law for Buraku Liberation. During the convention, BLL members confirmed that they will unite their efforts under the resent favorable conditions in the diet and public opinion in order to secure the passage of the law. Also, the following four points were decided: (1) many cases of discrimination are to be made clear and will be thoroughly denounced; (2) to create a broad support system for the central executive committee for Fundamental Law for Buraku Liberation, including participation by RENGO (Japanese Trade Union Confederation); (3) to request a resolution concerning the Law in the Municipal Assembly; (4) to request early and complete ratification of the International Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination.

3. Concerning the SAYAMA retrial case, BLL has requested that the court reopen the case in order to hear new testimony and consider new evidence. An appeal has been made for the immediate provisional release of Mr. Ishikawa who has been detained for more than 25 years.

4. Board members' election (every two years).

Mr. Uesugi, President, Mr. Komori, Secretary-General, and three other main posts were re-elected, and nine central executive committee members were elected. In addition, according to a new rule, two females and two Dietmen, Mr. Tanihata and Mr. Matsumoto mentioned above, were engaged as Special Executive Committee and unanimously approved.

The following issues were also discussed: hoisting the Japanese national flag (the rising sun flag) and singing the Japanese national anthem at official event, particularly in schools; political use of the emperor, such as the coronation, etc.; an increase in the BLL membership dues and the organization, as soon as possible, of a campaign to raise five billion yen; producing a film entitled "The River With No Bridge"; and educational/cultural activities relating to the International Literacy Year, etc.

Finally, Mr. Uesugi, President of BLL, closed the convention with the following words:

"...Today, people throughout the world are paying close attention to the Japanese attitude toward human rights issues. Japanese militarists invaded the Asia-Pacific region during World War II, inflicting great suffering through many human rights violations. Considering this situation, it is the expected role of the Buraku liberation movement to fight for the elimination of all forms of discrimination. BLL members must work with pride for that purpose!"

## A Critique of the Government Dowa Budget for FY 1990

The Fiscal Year 1990 Budget appropriation by the government for Dowa measures apparently underestimates and, in some cases, overlooks the serious reality of Buraku discrimination and signals the discontinuation and curtailment of the Dowa initiative of the government.

First, in more concrete terms, the budget reflects the nature of the Special Financial Measures Law for Area Improvement Projects which was intended to deal only with "final" measures that remain to be executed. The total 1990 budget for Dowa measures is ¥151,371,503-7.9% less than that for 1989. Since

the Special Financial Measures Law was executed in 1987, the budget figure has been cut every year by several tens of billion yen (slightly below 19% annually). Of special importance is the fact that all the ministries concerned with "physical" projects received 10% smaller budgets compared to last year. Specifically, the magnitude of budget reduction is by 13.5% for the Ministry of Education, 1.5% for the Ministry of Health and Welfare, 19.9% for the Ministry of Fishery, Forestry and Agriculture, 10.7% for the Ministry of Construction and 10.0% for the Ministry of Home Affairs. In total, budgetary appropriation for "physi-



cal" Dowa measures was reduced by 10% from last year.

This reveals the fundamental policy of the government which first defined the total volume of remaining Dowa measures for five years, divided that total into five and executed each block of measures planned for respective years. The 1990 budget Dowa measures was calculated this way without taking into consideration the present actual reality of Buraku discrimination. Moreover, the estimate was made in 1986 and it was only environmental improvement measures that were mainly targeted. As long as the government defines the Dowa policy this way, we can hardly expect even environmental improvements to be sufficiently executed.

In addition, the government policy in regard to what are called the "soft" measures in such fields as education, work and industry is becoming less satisfying. For example, the Ministry of Education still maintains "loan" scholarships rather than "grant" scholarships which it provided until a few years ago while recognizing the conspicuous discrepancy in the rate of advancement to highschools between Buraku students and non-Buraku students. The ministry of Labor has discontinued most Dowa measures after the enactment of the Special Financial Measures Law and applied general measures instead to deal with labor-related problems in Buraku communities. But these general measures are often not effective enough to meet specific needs of Buraku people and can be paternalistic rather than liberating. Moreover, the Labor budget is too small--less than one per cent of the total (0.78%), in spite of the claim of the Labor Ministry that the guarantee of job opportunities is vital.

The Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) does not seem to be concerned with supporting small-scale Buraku business operations when major economic and structural changes are taking place in Japan in the high yen environment.

Under the previous Dowa measures law, the Ministry of Health and Welfare asked the Ministry of Finance for budgetary appropriations for the construction of Welfare centers for the handicapped, for the elderly, and for medical clinics and placement of full-time nurses in Buraku communities. But the Ministry of Health and Welfare did not even place these requests in this year's budget proposal.

Further, MITI, the Ministry of Health and Welfare and the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and

## Chart : Transition of Dowa Budget

the ratio compared to the previous year

|   | 1969 | (million yen) | (%)    |
|---|------|---------------|--------|
| Law on Special Measures<br>for Dowa Project : Enforced  | 1969 | 6,217         | 55.9   |
|   | 1970 | 11,893        | 91.3   |
|   | 1971 | 20,891        | 75.7   |
|   | 1972 | 31,406        | 50.3   |
|   | 1973 | 44,860        | 42.8   |
|   | 1974 | 60,083        | 33.9   |
|   | 1975 | 82,066        | 36.6   |
|   | 1976 | 107,805       | 31.3   |
| Law on Special Measures<br>for Dowa Project :<br>Extended 3 years   | 1977 | 139,200       | 29.1   |
|   | 1978 | 184,318       | 32.4   |
|   | 1979 | 226,524       | 22.9   |
| Law on Specific Measures<br>for Area Improvement<br>Project : Enforced  | 1980 | 252,482       | 11.5   |
|   | 1981 | 279,235       | 10.6   |
|   | 1982 | 274,531       | ▲ 1.7  |
|   | 1983 | 238,394       | ▲ 13.2 |
| Law on Special Governmental<br>Budgetary Measure Concerning<br>the Projects Designated for the Dowa<br>Area Improvement :<br>Enforced | 1984 | 214,852       | ▲ 9.9  |
|   | 1985 | 210,610       | ▲ 7.0  |
|   | 1986 | 219,811       | 4.4    |
|   | 1987 | 190,949       | ▲ 13.2 |
|   | 1988 | 179,173       | ▲ 6.2  |
|   | 1989 | 164,419       | ▲ 8.2  |
|   | 1990 | 151,371       | ▲ 7.9  |
|   | 1991 | ?             | ?      |

(▲Minus)



Fishery have reduced the number of management consulting staff, vocational advisory staff, agricultural advisory staff and life advisory staff by another 50% this year. In the past four years the cumulative percentage of reduction of these staff members is over 200%, which seriously threatens the very foundation of these consulting and advisory services.

Budgets for public awareness-raising have increased against this general trend of declining government commitment to Dowa measures. The rate of increase and the total amount of awareness-raising measures in total are 11.1% or ¥1,200,594,000. More specifically they are 9.7% or ¥635,186,000 for the Management and Coordination Agency, 12.6% or ¥216,306,000 for the Ministry of Justice and 14.8% or ¥174,442,000 for the Ministry of Labor. However, given the special significance of public awareness-raising measures, budgetary appropriation for this purpose is miniscale-only 0.67% of the total.

In particular, the Ministry of Justice should be

criticized for not revealing the details of its Dowa budgets despite the fact that it is mainly in charge of human rights protection. This informs us that the Ministry of Justice itself may lack human rights consciousness.

With respect to International Literacy Year activities this year, the government, unlike for other international years, has not yet taken any major initiatives. The UN resolution proposed that all the countries in the world make sufficient preparations nationwide for the International Literacy Year. The Ministry of Education has contributed ¥100 million to UNESCO and has appropriated ¥1.44 million to organize a training program for literacy education leaders. This is all the government has done for the International Literacy Year. Our request for some budgetary appropriation for the survey of literacy education activities has not been met. This is truly discouraging.



## *One in Critical Condition ; Nine Injured*

# Korean Students Assaulted by Group

More than ten boys in the third year of Intermediate Department of Osaka Korean Elementary and Intermediate School were attacked and violently beaten and kicked by Japanese high school students in a street fight on the evening of April 18, 1990. Ten Korean students were injured, including one who is in a coma due to a concussion.

The boys were walking home from school in groups because on the previous day some of their schoolmates had been mugged by a group of Japanese high-school students and had also been assaulted by another group.

There have been cases of violence and abusive language against South Korean school children living in Japan since the so-called "pachinko suspicions" came to light last fall, in which pachinko businessmen, including many Koreans, contributed funds to politicians. Higashinari Police of Osaka Prefectural Police Headquarters began investigation of the case.

According to the school and the police headquarters, the incident occurred about 6:00 p. m. on April 18th. While sixteen students were on their way home, one of the students looked into a cake shop located at \_\_\_\_\_, Higashinari-ku, Osaka. One of three Japanese highschool boys in the shop started the quarrel, saying, "You were staring at me!" He ran out of the shop and grabbed the boy's jacket and pushed him against the shutter outside the shop. The Koreans and Japanese, both in groups, fought for some time.

Several minutes later, five more Japanese high-school boys, including one carrying a metal baseball bat, joined the fight and slapped the left cheek of one of the Korean boys, "A". The boy fell down hard on his back and hit his head violently against a concrete block bordering a flower bed and was knocked unconscious. Three or four of the Japanese boys continued beating him for ten minutes. They all ran away after beating "A's" pals, who were trying to stop them. "A" was rushed to the hospital and where he remains

in coma. Another boy's injuries, including a broken nose, required one month's hospitalization. The remaining eight injured boys received minor facial and abdominal injuries from being beaten with the metal bat.

### Underlying Discrimination...

According to the Korean School authorities, there occurred two blackjack cases by Japanese high-school boys in the vicinity of the JR Tamatsukuri Station between six and seven o'clock on the evening of April 17, victimizing five students in the second and third year of the Intermediate Department. The boys were forced to a rooftop where they were beaten on their faces and robbed of their money and telephone cards. For this reason, "A" and his pals were walking in groups, not only for self defense, but in order to look out for the perpetrators.

Based on testimony and descriptions of the assailants by the victims, school officials picked out one of the Japanese students and questioned him at the school. He said, "My younger pal in Junior High had been robbed by four high school boys who had their hair dyed yellow. I was sure they were students from the Korean School and wanted to get revenge."

Mr. \_\_\_\_\_, vice principal of the school, aged 42, said in a choking voice, "None of our students have dyed hair. It is always Korean children who are the victims of such false statements."

As for "A", he is in a hospital in Chuo-ku and is still in a coma, after an operation to remove the blood from his brain. He still does not respond to his father, aged 37, who is taking care of him. Controlling his anger, the father said, "Judging from the injury, the doctor told me that it seems they intended to kill my son. I myself went to the same school. I have been discriminated against since I was a small boy. Why on earth do we have to suffer such brutality?"



# The International Movement Against All Forms of Discrimination and Racism — Japan Committee (IMADR-JC) Established in Tokyo!

On May 21, 1990, IMADR-JC held a general assembly at Jiichiro Matsumoto Hall In Roppongi, Tokyo, for the purpose of establishing an organization to work toward the elimination of all forms of discrimination from the world. About 180 representatives of various organizations actively fighting discrimination joined Dietmen, scholars, businessmen and religious representatives in the assembly.

Mr. Tatsukuni Komori, Secretary-General of the Buraku Liberation League Central Headquarters, was elected President. In his inaugural address, Mr. Komori stated that IMADR, which has its head office in Japan, has made some progress since its establishment, but in order to eliminate discrimination from the world, and to realize UN NGO registration within the next year, IMADR-JC will have to play an important role. Toward those ends, he made an appeal for the full support of all concerned parties.

Mr. Saichiro Uesugi, President of BLL Central Headquarters, speaking as coordinator, expressed his opinion that respect for, and the protection of, human rights is now of utmost importance in the world and that IMADR-JC bears a very heavy responsibility on its shoulders. The Buraku Liberation League will join this movement in Japan.

Guest speaker Mr. Kinhide Mushakoji,

Secretary-General of IMADR addressed the assembly, saying that since Japan regrettably has not so far actively played her role in the elimination of discrimination in the world, IMADR-JC will work to ensure human rights in Japan and, along with IMADR head office, will be a key station in the fight for human rights throughout the world.

The second guest speaker, Ms. Manae Kubota, a member of the House of Councilors and Vice-chairman of the Japan Socialist Party, conveyed a message on behalf of JSP Chairman, Ms. Takako Doi, as follows: "There are no walls between peoples, and there are now no borders on human rights. Towards the establishment of human rights in the world, solidarity and cooperation are necessary."

Mr. Satsuki Eda, President of the United Democratic Party (Shaminren), confirmed that there are still many unsolved human rights problems. He expressed his respect and encouragement for the establishment of an organization such as IMADR-JC dedicated to finding solutions to these problems.

Congratulatory telegrams from Mr. Takashi Yonezawa, the chairman of the Japan Democratic Socialist Party (Minshato), and from the Japan Civil Liberties Union (Jiyu Jinken Kyokai), were acknowledged.





### Presentation of Bills

Mr. Sueo Murakoshi, BLRI's Chief director, presented six bills to the assembly.

Bill No. 1 : "Process Report", explaining the procedures of the Japan Committee since IMADR was established in 1988 ;

Bill No. 2 : "The Purpose of Establishment." This bill makes clear that the Japan Committee is actively working for both the elimination of all forms of discrimination and for the establishment of human rights in Japan and the Asia-Pacific region. Further, the Japan Committee is actively fighting for the abolition of apartheid in South Africa.

Bill No. 3 : "Regulation." In the future, IMADR-JC will try to register as a foundation (Foundational Juridical person). Detailed regulatory rules were written, including the location of the secretariat, organization, assets, etc.

Bills Nos. 4,5 and 6 were proposed by Mr. Kenzo Tomonaga, Secretary-General of BLRI.

Bill No. 4 : "Activity in 1990"

Bill No. 5 : "1990 Budget"

Bill No. 6 : "Organization as of 1990"

- 1.To create a Human Rights Information Center in the Asia/Pacific Region (Name to be decided).
- 2.To propose legislation of a national law for the elimination of discrimination and for the protection of human rights.
- 3.To actively campaign for the International Anti-Racial Discrimination Week to be held December 4-10, 1990.
- 4.To publish information on IMADR activities (correspondence in Japanese ; bi-monthly and annual magazines, etc.)

After due discussion and a question-and-answer period, the above-mentioned bills were unanimously adopted.

Finally, each of the new officers expressed their personal hopes and swore mutual unity and cooperation with the adoption of the appeal of the IMADR-JC Establishing Assembly.

In the second session, Prof. Takashi Ebashi of Hosei University, delivered the memorial address entitled "*Human Rights in a World Without Walls.*"

### Board Members and Secretariat

Mr. Saichiro Uesugi, President  
(Buraku Liberation League, Central Headquarters, President)

Ms. Manae Kubota, Vice President  
(Member of the House of Councilors)  
Mr. Kinhide Mushakoji, Vice President  
(Professor at Meijigakuin University and Vice-President of the Central Execution Committee for the Universal Declaration of Human Rights)  
Mr. Sueo Murakoshi, Chief Director  
(Buraku Liberation Research Institute)  
Mr. Moriteru Shinzaki, Director  
(Professor at Okinawa University)  
Rev. Lee In Ha, Director  
(Representative, National Liaison Conference to Combat National Discrimination)  
Mr. Takumi Ueda, Director  
(Vice-President, Buraku Liberation League and a member of House of Councilors)  
Mr. Takashi Ebashi, Director  
(Prof. of Hosei University)  
Mr. Kim Dong Hoon, Director  
(Prof. of Ryukoku University)  
Mr. Tatsukuni Komori, Director  
(Secretary-General, Buraku Liberation League and member of the House of Councilors)  
Mr. Kosaku Sakiyama, Director  
(National University Dowa Educators Association, President)  
Ms. Sumiko Shimizu, Director  
(Japan Women's Conference, Chairman and a member of the House of Councilors)  
Mr. Tsutomu Nishioka, Director  
(Vice-President, National Liaison Conference for Liberation of Disabled Persons)  
Mr. Giichi Nomura, Director  
(President, Ainu Association of Hokkaido)  
Mr. Ryoichi Terasawa, Director  
(President, National Dowa Education Association)  
Mr. Masahiro Masuno, Director  
(Chairman of the Joint Conference of Religious coping with the Dowa problem)  
Mr. Masashi Kawaguchi, Auditor  
(Buraku Liberation League, Central Headquarters, Financial Dept. Chief)  
Mr. Takeo Matsumoto, Auditor  
(Lawyer)

NB : No special order is observed

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