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## Annual Message

### ***Towards the Fundamental Resolution of the Buraku Problem and the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination.***

#### ***We, the Buraku Liberation Research Institute Develop Our 3rd Phase***

The Buraku Liberation Movement has counted a 72 year course of history since the establishment of the National Leveler's Association. Looking back on the results of the movement, the 1st phase was the "Denunciation of discrimination". The 2nd phase was the "Struggle against discriminative administration". And, as a 3rd phase, we have to develop the results obtained from the first two phases. The main target of the 3rd phase is the development of our movement, aiming at perfect Buraku liberation. In order to reach this goal, a complete environmental improvement of the Buraku community, the achievement of educational advancement and stable employment, as well as the abolishment of discrimination and the eradication of a discriminatory consciousness will be required. For this purpose the legislation of a Fundamental Law for Buraku Liberation will be necessary as a legal endorsement.

The 2nd target of the 3rd phase is the strengthening of solidarity with other people. In this connection, we must demand that an official apology be made to the war

prostitutes and Koreans living in Japan who endured forced labor during World War II, and we must realize the legislation of the "Draft Law on the War Reparations and Protection of Human Rights for the Natives of the Former Colonies and their Descendants Residing in Japan". Also, taking the opportunity of the UN International Year of World Indigenous People, we must assist the indigenous people in Japan, the Ainu, in abolishing the "Hokkaido Former Tribes Protection Law", legislated in 1899. The name of the law itself shows discrimination, and we must realize a new law for the Ainu,

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respecting them as an indigenous people in Japan and ensuring their rights .

Given the situation of civil war between races or tribes in the world, an international solidarity aiming at the abolition of discrimination and the establishment of human rights will be a very important subject. From this point of view, the role of IMADR(The International Movement Against All Forms of Discrimination And Racism ) is expected. Further, for the promotion of regional human rights, the establishment of an Asia-Pacific Human Rights Information Centre is a very essential matter.

The BLRI was established in August 1968 in solidarity with the Buraku liberation movement for the general public, thus denying control to any particular political party. Beginning as a voluntary organization under the name "Osaka Buraku Liberation Research Institute" we began activities in a room in Dowa Kaikan located in Momodani, Tennnoji-Ku, Osaka City. Then, with the construction of the Buraku Liberation Center in Naniwa-ku, Osaka city, the office was transferred to this center and we developed activities not only in Osaka but on a national scale. We call this period of time the first phase. In December 1974, the Osaka Buraku Liberation Research Institute became an incorporated body with the assistance of the Osaka municipality and activity has broaden until today. We call this period of time the 2nd phase.

At present our institute has been developing activities through 1) research & investigation, 2) enlightening & training activities, 3) publication of books and visual materials, 4) library open for perusal. Since then it has been contributing toward the abolition of all forms of discrimination in addition to the elimination of Buraku problems, and recently it has been strengthening international research and activities, taking a



broaden view. Given the serious human rights situation domestically and overseas, we have felt our activities enter into a 3rd phase, the Buraku Liberation movement entering into a third phase as well.

In August 1993, the Buraku Liberation Research Institute will celebrate the 25th anniversary of its birth. The staff-members of BLRI have taken this opportunity to express their fresh determination to strengthen future activities more and more, together with a broadening system.

We would like to express our sincere thanks to the Buraku Liberation League, the municipal governments of Osaka prefecture and Osaka city, as well as concerned local municipalities, teachers, entrepreneurs, labor unions, religious people, universities and all other organizations and individuals who are struggling against all forms of discrimination including the Buraku problem. At the same time we would like to ask for your continued support in the future.



## **Japan's Substantial Contribution Wanted: Including Preventive Diplomacy For Human Rights**

### ***Tokyo Convention Held In Commemoration Of The 44th Anniversary of The Universal Declaration Of Human Rights***

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On December 4, 1992 the Tokyo Convention to commemorate the 44th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was held at Hibiya Public Hall in Tokyo. The meeting, sponsored by the International Movement Against All Forms of Discrimination Japan Committee and the Central Executive Committee of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, was entitled "Tasks in Eliminating Racial Discrimination and Human Rights in Asia and the Pacific Region". The meeting had approximately 1,300 participants with Mr. Teo Van Boven, Prof. of Limburg University, Holland, and Ms. Kiyoko Furusawa, Lecturer at both Tokyo Women's College and Yokohama City University, as guest speakers.

Following the opening address, Mr. Tatsukuni Komori, the Secretary-General of the Central Executive Committee of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights gave a keynote speech. He reported that racial problems have emerged since the Cold War subsided, and in Japan, there are a lot of tasks to be done; for example, Buraku people, the Ainu race and Koreans residing in Japan are suffering from serious discrimination. He also stated that the year 1993 will see the World Conference of Human Rights, as well as the International Year of Indigenous Peoples. As such, he emphasized, achieving success in these events should be included among those important tasks and more commitment should be required on the part of the national as well as municipal governments.

#### ***Situation in Europe and Importance of Preventive Diplomacy***

Prof. Van Boven gave a speech on the

theme, 'The Rise of Racial Discrimination and the Task of Eliminating Discrimination --toward the 45th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights'. He is a member of the UN Committee for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and has been working on human rights activities in the UN. Primarily taking racial discrimination in a wide term as defined in the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, he reported how the UN has been working on racial discrimination. According to him, the movement was initially comprehended in the context of resistance to colonialism by non-Western countries, but gradually it came to play the role of a leading power of defending human rights in general. The problem of racial discrimination is apt to be comprehended as a specific phenomenon only found in countries such as South Africa. Yet, no society has been free from racial discrimination. He stressed that it should be regarded as a global problem. Then he reported on ethnic conflicts, racism, and hostility to foreigners which have been apparent in various parts of Europe. Referring especially to the ethnic troubles in the former Yugoslavia, he



indicated that international communities have not responded it efficiently and suggested that preventive diplomacy would be more and more important. He also stated that the rise in power of the extreme right, along with hostility toward foreigners is a serious situation, while movements against such a tendency have become activated in various parts of Europe. Such activities at a national level, however, have to be supported at an international level. Therefore, the expectation is that Japan will promptly ratify the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. Mr. Van Boven concluded.

### ***East Timor Issue and Our Responsibility***

Ms. Furusawa, a member of the Tokyo East Timor Association, reported on the 'Situation of and Task for Human Rights in Asia and the Pacific Region - Specifically, the East Timor Issue'. Indonesia is one of the countries to which Japan has given the highest amount of ODA funding and is closely related in trade. In spite of the fact that Indonesia has violated human rights in many ways in East Timor, Japan maintains the stance of providing ODA, contradicting the four ODA Principles announced by the government as well as the fundamental spirit of ODA. Although the General Assembly of the UN adopted resolutions supporting the independence of East Timor eight times in the past, USA and Japan were against the resolution. This encouraged Indonesia to hold on to its strong attitude. The situation there has become worse since the tragedy of the Santa Cruz Massacre. It is urgently required for Japan to observe the UN Resolution and to use its power to push the Indonesian Government to respect human rights in East Timor. Above all, Japan should urge them to allow international NGOs to enter into East Timor, to give fair trials to those who were arrested, and to carry out elections the residents under UN monitoring-something they

have wanted for so long a time. Ms. Furusawa emphasized that Japan should make a commitment to resolve the East Timor issue by influencing Indonesia on the matter.

### ***Seeking Substantial Human Rights Diplomacy***

Finally Mr. Kinhide Mushakoji, Vice Chairman of the Central Executive Committee of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Deputy Director of IMADR, summarized the meeting. He pointed out that Japan should refrain from opportunistic diplomacy on human right issues, as she can play an international key role by contributing to preventive diplomacy, especially by initiating non-military aspects. He also advocated that as her task toward the 45th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Japan must go on to ratify the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination in order to make her diplomatic status clear in promoting human



rights. In addition, he stated that human rights issues in the country should be worked on together with international issues toward the goal of the establishment of human rights.

### ***In Conclusion***

We have a lot of tasks ahead of us in 1993. The 45th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the World Conference on Human Rights, and the

International Year of Indigenous Peoples will make the year internationally epoch-making. It should be realized that the world community expects much from Japan. We are just as much responsible for the issue as any individual citizen. We should join together more closely in this country and internationally for the establishment of human rights. The meeting's appeal was adopted in making a fresh determination to strive for the establishment of human rights.

## ***Honorary Citizenship Of 'OGOHRI' Awarded To Mr. Saichiro Uesugi, Chairman Of Buraku Liberation League And One Of Our Advisory Staff.***

Mr. Saichiro Uesugi, who is serving on our advisory staff of the Buraku Liberation Research Institute as well as Chairman of the Central Committee of the Buraku Liberation League, was made an Honorary Citizen of Ogohri, Fukuoka Pref. A party was held on Nov. 25, 1992 at a hotel in Tokyo in celebration of this happy occasion. Mr. Chairman Uesugi said at the party, "I understand the Award was given to those who have been involved in Buraku liberation movements and international movements against discrimination, including a lot of people who have taken part and worked together in the movements, rather than given to me personally. I will walk on this road as long as I live".

In indication of his large circle of associates, as many as 1,000 people from various quarters were present at the party to celebrate his award. As the host of the party, Mr. Kinhide Mushakoji, the Secretary-General of IMADR made a speech: "His activities abroad as well as in this country in appealing for the elimination of all forms of discrimination and the establishment of human rights, for which he was given the award, are indeed a monumental work in themselves and, as a jumping step for a high-



Former chairman of the Socialist Party of Japan proposed a toast for Mr. Uesugi (left).

er leap for the future, let us celebrate this occasion with you all who have been struggling against discrimination." On behalf of Mr. Yamada, the Mayor of Ogohri, who was absent because of illness, Mr. Takumi Ide, the Chairman of the City Assembly read an address saying that Mr. Uesugi had been recommended in unison by the city and that his world-wide activities are expected. Mr. Tokuo Yamashita, former Minister of Health and Welfare, praised his personality saying that he had found a life-long friend in him in the course of association. As his friend, Mr. Makoto Tanabe, the former Chairman of the Socialist Party of Japan, proposed a toast. Admiring him with such phrases as "I am very pleased with the award as if it were given to me".



## ***High School Girl Kills Herself Jr. High School Teacher Refuses Marriage.***

The Hiroshima Prefectural Association of the Buraku Liberation League reported on December 18, 1992 that a seventeen year-old senior high school student had committed suicide, after being rejected by a 33 year-old junior high school teacher in Hiroshima. He had once taught her a school and had been dating her. He was forced to resign by the Hiroshima City Board of Education on 17 December. According to the investigation by the Association, the teacher, who was single, had been going with the girl since 1991, when she mentioned getting married, he turned her down because of her Buraku origin and his parents disapproval. The girl committed suicide at her house on October 28, 1991.

Immediately after the incident, the

Association brought up the case to the City Board of Education and had several fact-finding meetings with the Board as well as with the Hiroshima Prefectural Government. The City Board of Education announced that the teacher, who would not admit the facts, abruptly submitted his resignation on the 17th of December and he was forced to resign on the grounds that his irresponsible behavior had ruined the reputation of public servants, especially these engaged in education. The Dowa education and Guidance Section of the Hiroshima City Board of Education stated, "We regret this case, which should never have happened. We will keep the incident firmly in mind so as to make the Dowa education thoroughly known to teachers and to cultivate morality among them.

We have received the following letter from Dr. Chandra Muzaffar, who is director of JUST organization in Malaysia and is working for human rights.

Quote

*Dear friend,*

*Peace be with you.*

*After studying various documents connected with the problem of Buraku discrimination in Japan, I'm convinced that it is important to enact a fundamental law for Buraku Liberation. I give my wholehearted support to the move to enact such a law.*

*The significance of a Buraku Liberation law goes beyond the shores of Japan. It has a great deal of meaning for all human beings everywhere struggling against discrimination in one form or another.*

*May your struggle for genuine liberation bear fruit in the near future.*

*With warm regards.  
Sincerely*

*(Chandra Muzaffar)*

Unquote



## ***Action Started For Embodiment of "International Year Of Indigenous Peoples"***

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### ***Citizens Liaison Council for International Indigenous Peoples' Organized.***

On November 16, the Citizens' Liaison Council for the "International Year of Indigenous Peoples" was inaugurated at The Members Hall of the House of Representatives in Tokyo. The Citizens' Liaison Council was organized by Ainu people, citizens organizations as well as individuals to work together for a successful "International Year of Indigenous Peoples". The Council publishes News Letters and exchanges information.

The inauguration began with a meeting between the Citizens' Council and the relevant governmental bureaus, to discuss how to handle with the "Year of Indigenous People". Representing the Council, the originators Messrs. Giichi Nomura, Shigeru Kayano, Kinhide Mushakoji, Katsuichi Honda and Henry Stuart were present at the meeting with secretariat staff. Diet members from the Socialist Party of Japan, the Komei Party and the Social Democratic Federation were also present besides the bureau staff. It was revealed that the government so far has had no concrete project for the Year of Indigenous People. Above all the reasons they gave, they said it was because they had

no established definition of indigenous people in terms of international law. The Council emphasized that that was why the Year was set up and facilitating the movements would result in the enactment of international law on this matter.

The Liaison Council reminded the government that Japan is responsible for working along the lines of the UN resolution which she approved and urged them to take positive action to promote the 'Year of Indigenous Peoples'. The prospect for the Year is not so bright as we have seen from the attitude of the government. After the meeting, Mr. Nomura handed out the prospectus of the Liaison Council and Appeal for Action to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in charge of the "Year of Indigenous Peoples". At the following press conference, the Council expressed their demand that the government continue to meet with them as a sign of their positive commitment. They also emphasized that they would go on appealing to the government to take measures to respect the rights of the Ainu race in the country.