

BURAKU LIBERATION RESEARCH INSTITUTE

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Discussion of the Fundamental Approach to Buraku History, the Future Liberation Movement and the Dowa Administration

On July 10, the National Buraku Liberation Researchers Meeting and the 38th General Assembly of the Buraku Liberation Research Institute were held with the 355 participants met at Osaka Municipal Naniwa Liberation Hall. Following the opening address by Mr. Sueo Murakoshi, Chairperson of the Institute, the first session began chaired by Mr. Nobuaki Teraki. They discussed the theme, "Re-examining the Buraku History Now." Mr. Toshio Watanabe (Buraku Liberation Research Institute) raised some issues to be re-examined about Buraku History. They were: to enrich the theory that "the Buraku were framed for political reasons," with its true meaning, to get rid of the stereotyped views of earlier modern times (Edo period) on the status of "Eta" and "Hinin," how to profile Buraku in modern times, the Suihei-sha's responsibilities during the the War, and evaluation of the book, "Questions on Buraku History" by Toshiyuki Hatanaka. Regarding these issues, Mr. Hirokazu Akisada (Ikenobo Junior College) commented that the study of townsmen and farmers of the Edo period, especially those at the bottom, is



essential in contemplating the social status of the people including "the Hinin" of those days, in spite of the fact that studies on this matter

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have been neglected. Heated discussions with many questions and comments were carried on among the participants.

The second session started in the afternoon. The topic was "The Third Phase of the Buraku Liberation Movement" chaired by Mr. Hitoshi Okuda (Kansai Gaidai University). Mr. Masayuki Ohga, Director of the Research Dept. of the Institute, made a report in which he focused on the necessity of creativity in the third phase of the movement. He stated that the movement, while it has made remarkable progress, could have an aspect of a "bubble movement," which should be overcome. On the other hand, he also emphasized that Japan draws international attention to the question of what it can contribute to a world where crucial issues for all human beings have emerged since the cold war structure collapsed. These issues include ethnical conflicts, environment of the earth, and the energy problems.

Mr. Ichiro Hirano (Aichi University) suggested that the organization principles of the Buraku Liberation League should be as easy to understand as those of the Suihei-sha. He also raised the problem of how to cope with a the new aspect of Buraku: young people have left the Buraku movement, resulting in a high percentage of elderly people. Mr. Ohga gave some comments in a supplement on these issues.

In the third session, chaired by Mr. Tetsuo Ogita (Osaka Prefectural Dowa Project Promotion Council), the theme of the direction of Dowa administration was discussed. Mr. Kenzo Tomonaga, Director of the Institute proposed some issues. Mr. Tomonaga reported that there would be no more extension of "The Law on Specific Governmental Budgetary Measures Concerning the Projects Designated for the Dowa Area Improvement," and that the

time of "Special Measures" will soon be over. He also commented that the situation involving discrimination against Buraku has been changing since we have been working on the problems, and that the administration of Dowa, should therefore be developed according to this new prospect. He suggested that issues such as improvement of the environment, benefits to individuals, construction of public facilities and promotional subsidies to organizations, should be studied. In this respect Mr. Yoshio Miwa (Kobe Gakuin University) reported the case of a town which failed to solve its Buraku problems as the result of the loss of the general administrative function caused by the withdrawal of the Special Measures as well as the Dowa administration itself. In addition, he stated that utilizing general measures, such projects as the 10 Years Welfare Plan for Elderly People and the Ten Years Strategy of Rebuilding Public Houses would be necessary. There were some other opinions and questions raised by the participants.

After the Researchers Meeting, the 38th General Assembly of the Buraku Liberation Research Institute was held. Mr. Kenzo Tomonaga, Director of the Institute, proposed ten bills in all. They included the Projects Report of the fiscal year of 1992, the Account Report of the Fiscal year of 1992, the Mid-term (April to June) Project Report of the fiscal year of 1993, Project Plans for the fiscal year of 1993, the Commemorative Project for the 25th Anniversary of the Institute and the Budget Plan for the fiscal year of 1993. With applauds all the bills were approved by the participants.

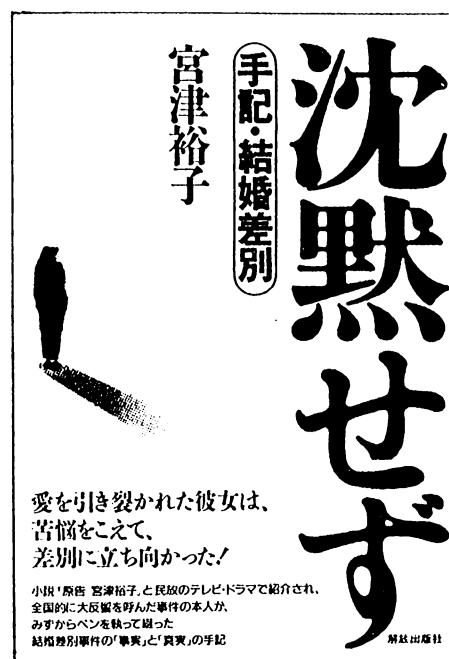


Woman of Discriminated Buraku in Osaka Published A Book of Her Own Experience Against "Marriage Discrimination"

Ms. Masumi Takamiya, who lives in Higashi-Osaka, City, Osaka Pref., is 37 years old.. She sued her ex-fiancée, who left her because of her Buraku origin, and won compensation for damages. Last May she published a book entitled, "Chinmoku Sezu (Don't be Silent): memorandum of A Marriage Discrimination Case" intending to "inform as many people as possible of the reality of marriage discrimination". She was the first victim of marriage discrimination to publish a personal memorandum about the incident.

Ms. Takamiya was working for a pharmaceutical company in Osaka after finishing high school when she began dating a man who joined the company in the same year she did. They became engaged to each other, but his family would not approve their marriage because of her Buraku origin. Eventually he changed his mind and suddenly disappeared. She brought the case to court in 1980, because she just "could not let the matter drop and resign herself". Three years later she won the verdict to the effect that it was unduely cruel on the part of the defendant to cancel the engagement because she was from a Buraku background. That verdict evoked nation wide public attention. The incident was taken up in books and movies. This time the person involved in the incident wrote it in memorandum which was edited and published by the Buraku Liberation Research Institute.

In the book the author described not



only the process of how the case was won but also how she was brought up. She described the episode seven years after the verdict when she and her ex-fiancée saw each other again for the first time in thirteen years since his disappearance and she finally got his apology.

Ms. Takamiya said, "If anyone around you is suffering from discrimination, I would like you to give him /her your support. If you are the one suffering from discrimination, do not put yourself down and give in to the discrimination."

The book "Chinmoku Sezu" written by Ms. Takamiya under her pen name "Yuko Miyazu, is now being put on sale by Kaiho Shuppan-sha. (in Japanese)



Discrimination Against Buraku, Today (8)

Working - cont'd.

3. Fewer White-collar Workers

1) The survey of workers/employees by occupation shows that clerical workers are fewer in the Buraku. They are fewer than the average in all prefectures. Especially in Mie, Shiga and Kagawa prefectures, the ratio is 10 points lower than that of the respective prefectural level.

2) On the contrary, the ratio of skilled workers/workers in manufacturing and laborers(those who work in manufacturing assembly line, construction, operating and repairing machines, transporting and cleaning) is higher in the Buraku, except for Gunma. The ratio is 10 points lower than the average in Tottori, Shimane and Kagawa prefectures.

Furthermore, the ratio of laborers in the Buraku is much higher in Osaka(9.2%) and Tottori(15.8%) compared to their prefectural ratios(4.7% and 3.7% respectively).

Characteristically, it can be said that there are fewer white-collar workers and more blue-collar workers in the Buraku.

3) The ratio of those who are engaged in sales is lower in the Buraku except Shimane, while the ratio of those engaged in service is higher in the Buraku except Gunma and Mie prefectures.

4) As to the ratio of those engaged in the professional and engineering occupations, such as engineers, teachers, medical doctors, nurses, kindergarten teachers and lawyers, whose qualifications require college degrees at least, it is higher in the Buraku in Gunma, Shiga and Tottori prefectures. The ratio in the Buraku is as high as in the whole prefectural level in Kyoto prefecture. These figures are highly doubtful, however, considering the educational structure

in the Buraku.

4. Low Employment Ratio in Big Companies.

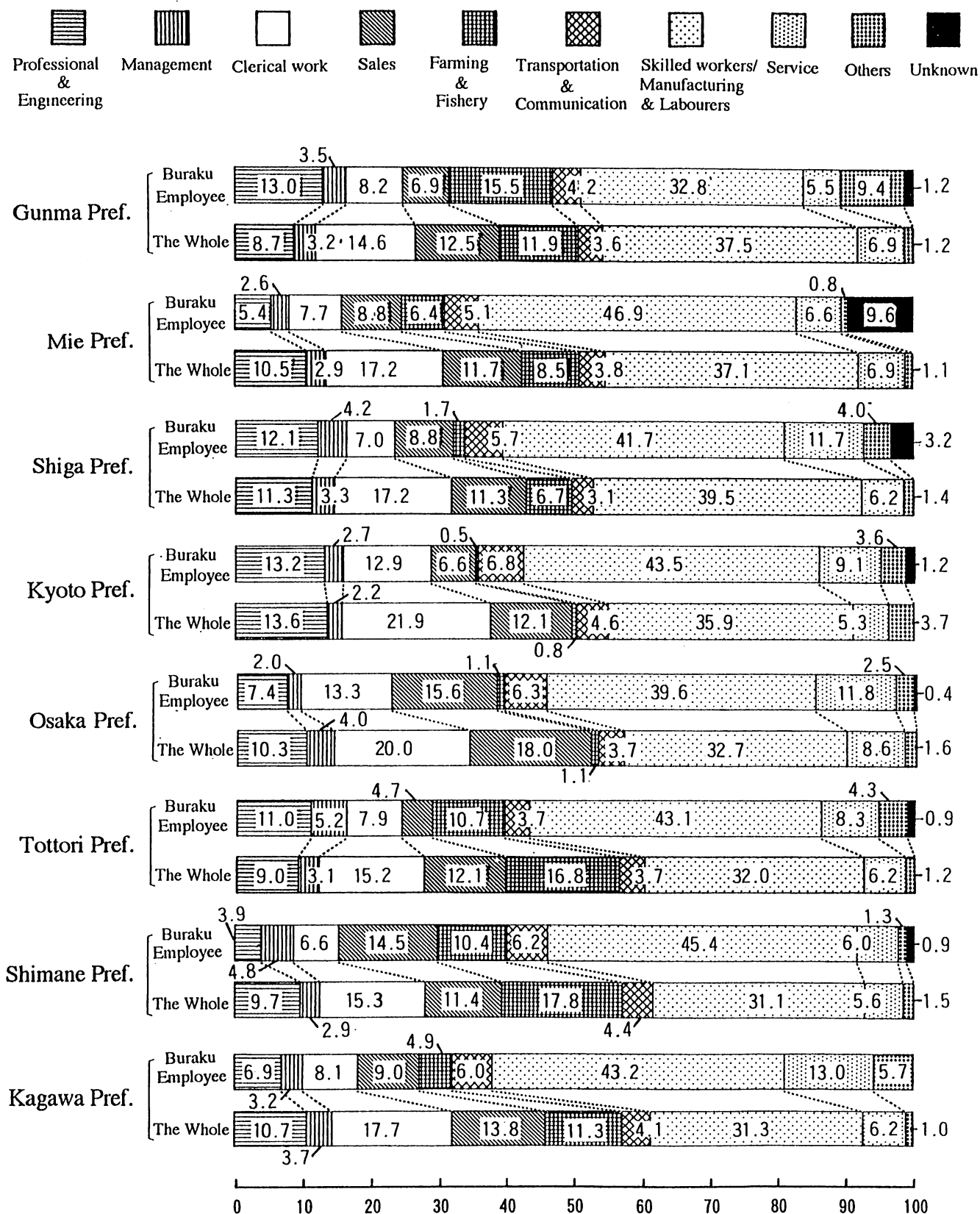
1) Fig.23 shows employment by the number of employees(the total number of employees working in head offices, branches and factories). Except for Gunma, more workers in the Buraku are employed in small companies composed of 1 to 9 employees. Especially in Shiga, Shimane and Kagawa prefectures, the ratio in this category(1 to 9 employees) is 10 points higher in the Buraku than the average in the respective prefecture. In Shimane and in Kagawa, the ratios of workers employed by companies with less than 30 employees are over 50%. Gunma prefecture, where the ratio of '1 to 9 employees' is lower in the Buraku, has a higher ratio by 8 points in the category of '10 to 29 employees', compared to the prefectural average.

2) On the contrary, the ratio of Buraku workers employed by big companies with 300 to 999 employees as well as more than 1000 employees is much lower than the average in all prefectures. Thus, in the Buraku, many people work for small enterprises and those employed by major enterprises are very few.

3) The proportion of government and municipal workers varies among the prefectures. In Osaka prefecture, the ratio is more than double in the Buraku, compared to the prefectural level, while in Gunma, Shiga, Tottori and Shimane prefectures the ratio is less than half.



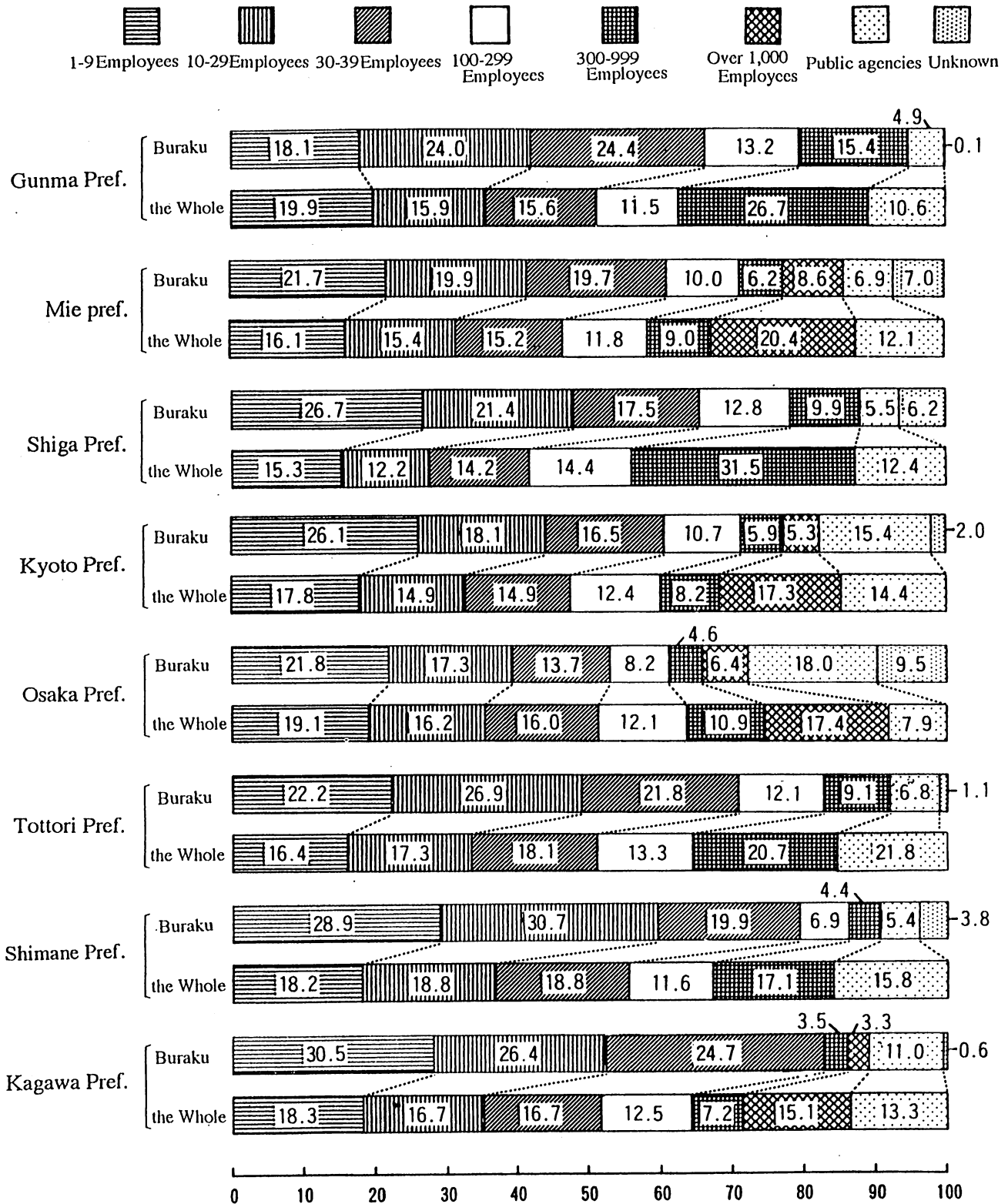
Fig. 22 Occupational Distribution of Employment.



Notes: Figures indicated as the whole of any individual prefecture are based on the "Basic Survey on Employment Structure" of 1987.



Fig. 23 Employment by Number of Employees



Notes: Figures indicated as the whole of any individual prefecture are based on the 'Basic Survey on Employment Structure' of 1987.

'300 to 999' in Gunma, Shiga, Shimane and Tottori includes 'Over 1000'.

30 to 99' of Buraku in Kagawa includes '100 to 299'.



Anticipation Raised For the Role of "The Asia-Pacific Human Rights Information Centre"

Introduction

On September 3, a symposium entitled "Global Age and Human Rights in Asia: On the Role of the Asia-Pacific Human Rights Information Centre (tentatively named)" was held at Osaka International House. Hosted by the Project Planning Committee for the Foundation of the Centre, the meeting lasted over three hours with about 1,100 participants discussing and giving suggestions and expectations for the Human Rights Information Centre.

Mr. Masatoshi Hara, Representative of the Project Planning Committee for the Foundation of the Centre and also Director of the Department of Planning and Coordination of Osaka Pref., gave an opening speech as the host of the meeting. Mr. Toshio Kunikata, Section chief of Human Rights and Refugees, Dept. of International Social Cooperation, Bureau of Integrated Diplomatic Policies, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, made a speech on behalf of the guests.

The commemorative speech entitled "Human Rights Activities of the United Nations and the Role of the Human Rights Information Centre" was then given by Mr. John Pace, Director of the Dept. of Legislation and Prevention Against Discrimination, UN Human Rights Center. Mr. Pace was a key person as a coordinator of the World Conference on Human Rights held in Wien last June.

Mr. Pace began his speech by expressing his gratitude to the Project Planning Committee for the Foundation of the Center, as well as to Osaka Prefecture and Osaka City. He then talked about the late Mr. Yo Kubota, who



Mr. John P. Pace

had been a staff member of UN Human Rights Center and one of the initiators of this Information Centre Project. Having stated the significance of the human rights activities of the UN and summarized the history of those activities, he reviewed the World Conference on Human Rights held in Wien in June 1993, commenting on the Wien Declaration and Action Plans. Following is an excerpt of his speech:

The World Conference for Human Rights

The two year procedure reached its climax when the Wien Declaration and Action Plans were adopted at the World Conference. Meanwhile, the international society had made up a network of activities throughout the world. It mobilized the various fields of the extensive society.

The Wien Declaration and Action Plans were the refined results produced from tedious activities of so-called satellite conferences organized by regional groups as well as technical facilities of the United Nations. Preparatory procedures were discussed at regional conferences held in Africa, Asia,,



Central & South America / the Caribbean. It was the first time in the history of the UN that such conferences were held with a number of NGO taking part at both national and regional levels.

The Role of the Asia-Pacific Human Rights Information Centre

In order to fulfil the aims proposed by the World Conference on Human Rights, the network consisting of the Commission on Human Rights and various human rights groups including NGO has provided some measures of implementation. An instrument to integrate these measures should be established. The Asia-Pacific Human Rights Information Centre should be the instrument we need.

The Human Rights Information Centre is essential for the fulfillment of the aims. The Centre may cover the gap existing between the individual and the security he should get. It can fill up the void caused by being ignorant of the standard of human rights. If people of new generation become highly aware of human rights and become motivated to fulfill the standard set up by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, policies and determinations in general should be carried out in accordance with an integrated sense of human rights.

The World Conference on Human Rights had formed the way for us to establish human rights "as they should be" as described in the UN Charter. It is the responsibility of we individuals as a members of the international society to respond to the address of the Conference. Whether it will be achieved or not may depend on how each of us responds to it.

In concluding his speech Mr. Pace expressed his sincere support for the foundation of "The Asia-Pacific Human Rights Information Centre", as well as his respect and gratitude to the staff for the determination to establish the Centre.

Mr. Kim Dong Hoon, an expert member of the Project Planning Committee for the

Foundation, explained why The Asia-Pacific Human Rights Information Centre is needed. What kind of function it will have and why the centre should be built in Osaka.

Anticipation and Suggestions toward "The Asia-Pacific Human Rights Information Centre"

A symposium was then presided over by Mr. Kinhide Mushakoji, a professor of Meiji Gakuin University and Former Vice President of the UN University. Seven panelists gave their comments on their expectations and their suggestions to the Asia-Pacific Human Rights Information Centre based on their respective activities and experiences. They were: Mr. Jitsujyo Arima, Secretary General of Japan Sototshu Relief Committee; Mr. Saichiro Uesugi, Chairman of the Central Committee of the Buraku Liberation League; Mr. Kazuki Ogawa, a councilor and Director of the the Personnel Department of Daihatsu Kogyo Co.; Mr. Fumio Takemura, a lawyer; Ms. Masako Fukuda, a commentator for NHK; Mr. Takeshi Matsuura, Vice President of "Rengo" - Osaka and also Chairman of Osaka Prefectural Headquarters of the Civil Servants Union; and Mr. Koshi Yamazaki, a professor of Kagawa University (International Law for Human Rights). With much heated discussion among the seven panelists, expectations and proposals were presented to the Centre. Mr. Mushakoji summarized the role of the Human Rights Information Centre based upon the discussion in the symposium.

Finally, Mr. Kosaku Sakiyama, (Deputy Representative of the Promoting Committee for the foundation of "The Asia-Pacific Human Rights(tentatively named)Information Centre") closed the meeting after assuring the participants of the firm determination to work for the Foundation of the Information Centre according to the proposals from the various groups,



Human Rights in Japan from the Perspective of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights

Counter-Report to the Third Japanese Government Report

This report describes the reality of discrimination against Buraku people, against Koreans in Japan, against the Ainu, against foreign workers, against women and against disabled persons, and criticizes the third periodic reports of Japanese Government.

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Does the Third Periodic Report Accurately
Reflect the Human Rights Condition in Japan? by Masumi Takano

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Recognizing the Historical background and protecting the Rights of Koreans in
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From the Assimilation Policy to the Guarantee of the Rights of the Ainu as an
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Secure Human Rights for all Foreign Worker. By Masao Niwa

Controversial Points of the Law Concerning the Promotion of Equal Opportunity
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Machiko Ohno

Dignity and Freedom, Not Protection or Charity. By Koji Onoue

Appendix: Third Periodic Report of Japanese Government.

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