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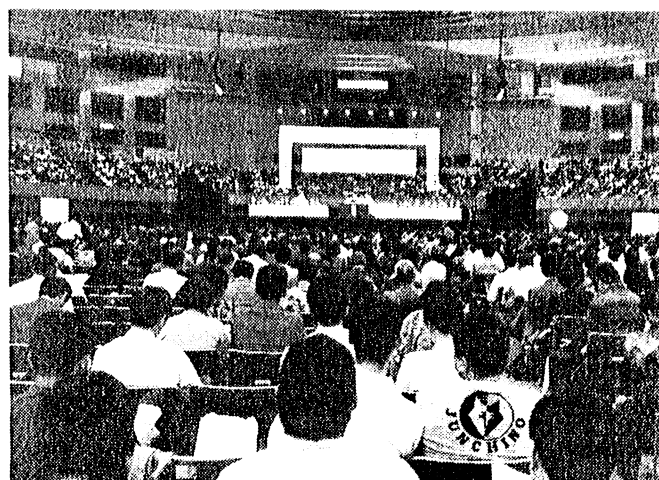
November 1993

Proposals Released by the Theory Committee Massive Discussion Started at the 27th National Buraku Liberation Research Meeting

The 27th National Buraku Liberation Research Meeting was held from October 19 through 21 in Nagoya with approximate 13,000 participants. The four sections of the Central Theory Committee presented their proposals, to break through to the new age of the Buraku Liberation Movement. These proposals are to be discussed by all.

Mr. Saichiro Uesugi, Chairman of the Central Administration Committee of the National Buraku Liberation Research Meeting (President of the Central Executive Committee of Buraku Liberation League) made a speech as the host of the meeting. He expressed his hope that for the Hosokawa Government will show us a definite difference from the former government on human rights policies. He demanded that the government establish legal, institutional and structural fundamentals with regard to human rights. He also said beginning with this research meeting, that the proposals from the four sections of the Central Theory Committee would be discussed and made ready for the national convention next March.

The keynote address was given by Mr.



Tatsukuni Komori, Secretary General of the Central Administration Committee of the Meeting (Chief Secretary of the Buraku

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Liberation League). As to the issues both in and out of the country, he said that the Hosokawa Government should join the international circles who have signed treaties represented by the 'International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination'. He also said that the government should work on domestic laws to eliminate discrimination in this country. These include 'Buraku Liberation Fundamental Law', 'New Law for Ainu Race', 'Law on War Reparations and Protection of Human Rights for the Natives of the Former Colonies and Descendants Residing in Japan', and 'Protection Law for Bombed Victims'. In relation to the enactment of the 'Fundamental Law', Mr. Komori pointed out that the government investigation made in November was not a thorough one as the 'undesignated' districts were not included. He called for a thorough inquiry of the government on this point. He criticized the reactionary aspects of legal circles referring to the Sayama retrial case. He appealed to the participants to enforce the struggle. He also advocated enforcing the activities of the International Movement Against All Forms of Discrimination and Racism (IMADR), and taking initiatives in the movement for establishing 'The Asia-Pacific

Human Rights Information Centre'.

Then the respective Section Chiefs of the Central Theory Committee presented their proposals and asked for ardent discussions. Their proposals were:

- 1) the direction that Buraku Liberation Movement should take.
- 2) the direction that Dowa administration should take.
- 3) to get hold of the real situation of Buraku discrimination today.
- 4) the direction that the education for Buraku liberation should take.

The last program of the day was the Minority Festival, which the participants thoroughly enjoyed.

On the third day, commemorative speeches by Mr. Kinhide Mushakoji, Secretary General of IMADR, and Ms. Masako Fukuda, Commentator of NHK, were given on the World Conference on Human Rights and on indigenous people respectively. Ms. Reiko Yamazaki, Executive Committee Member of Aichi Pref., gave a special report on 'Working as an Organizer in an Undesignated District'.

Host Speech by Mr. Saichiro Uesugi

We are on a historic turning point now, as is symbolized with such familiar expressions as 'New Age', 'Age of Reform' and so on.

The end of the East-West Cold War Structure brought about a big change in

world history. This, in turn, helped bring about in this country a new political aspect: the overturning of the 'political system in control since '55', - political situation based on Liberal Democratic Party and Japan Socialist Party - with the Hosokawa Coalition Government gaining power.



In analyzing the situation since this end of the East-West Cold War, we can say for sure that one of the essential issues now should be 'human rights'. When I see the new Hosokawa Government in this light, I have to say that I have some apprehension about the government, because the 'Agreements' made by the eight parties at the time of forming the coalition government did not contain any policies on human rights. And the government has not set up definite ones yet.

We give our basic support to the Hosokawa Government as we regard it as a 'better' government than previous ones. It is trying to wipe out corrupt, money-minded politics. It is more concerned with people and their well being. However, we do expect the government to show us how it is different from the former governments especially with respect to human rights policies.

In this respect, the Hosokawa Government should work very hard for the 'establishment of legal, institutional, and structural fundamentals on human rights.' I believe five essential things to be considered by the government to accomplish this task are:

- 1) the enactment of comprehensive fundamental laws for the elimination of all discrimination and the establishment of human rights throughout the country,
- 2) the establishment of a 'Ministry for the Defense of Human Rights' which would administer full scale, integrated measures on human rights.
- 3) the establishment of a 'Human Rights Committee' which would be a legal organization independent of the government. It would supervise the



Mr. Saichiro Uesugi, President of the Central Executive Committee of the BLL.

government administration of human rights. It would take action or relief measures against any kind of human rights violation. It would make proposals, do research, create publicity and carry out investigations. 4) it should promote the establishment of human rights protective organization in the Asia-Pacific region through the United Nations,

5) to take the initiative in UN human rights activities. The government should support and promote the ratification and embodiment of international treaties on human rights.

We have to watch what policies the Hosokawa Government will carry out relative to the above issues. As a matter of fact, our demand for the enactment of 'A Fundamental Law for Buraku Liberation' should be included in them.

Eight years have already passed since we released the 'Bill of Fundamental Law for Buraku Liberation', in 1985. While "the Law on Specific Governmental Budgetary Measures" was extended twice in the past, we regret that the bill has never been laid before the Diet.

At our research meeting last September we declared that we would not



request the re-extention of the current law so that we might make it clear that we are demanding liberation from discrimination rather than just demanding work projects.

I would like all of you to realize that we are struggling for the enactment of the "Fundamental Law for Buraku Liberation" by all means. We have cut off our retreat. In this way we are taking the first step in the full scale struggle for the enactment of this law.

The short cut to eliminate Buraku discrimination is, we believe at this moment, the enactment of the Buraku Liberation Fundamental Law. If the relevant organizations should get together to discuss and take concrete measures for eliminating discrimination, then I think we need we will not necessarily adhere to the " Bill of Fundamental Law for Buraku Liberation. " We need not then adhere to the formality of the Bill but to its content, which is, we think, important for both the goal and measures of eliminating discrimination.

Moreover, we can say that we are ready to consider the fundamental law as a whole in order to eliminate all kinds of discrimination including that against Buraku, Ainu, Koreans living in Japan, the handicapped, women, and foreigners working in Japan if the Hosokawa Government will carry through.

Our Central Theory Committee has summarized the Buraku Liberation Movements in the past and discussed what to do toward the 'creation and implementation' of the Third Phase of the Buraku Liberation Movement. We are presenting you today with the committee's proposals.

The committee has been working 'to liberate ourselves from the old view of Buraku and the old fashioned strategies by shaking off stagnation and conservatism'. Taking the viewpoint that we are developing the Suihei-sha movement worldwide, the committee members have been working to show a definite way to full-fledged liberation, getting rid of the frame of mind in which we tend to misunderstand the 'specific' period set up by the 'Law on Specific Measures' as the 'normal' period.

Each of the theory groups is ready to make drastic proposals under the new concept, setting our goal to suit the new age of the Buraku Liberation Movement. These proposals are to be received by our operation bodies intensely. Through ardent discussions both inside and outside of our organization, they will be solidified into the basic scope of the Buraku Liberation Movement at our national convention next March .

• White Paper on Human Rights in Japan 1984

Compiled by Buraku Liberation Research Institute

Various types of human rights situations in Japan are described: Discrimination against Buraku, Koreans, AINU, Handicapped people, Okinawans, Women, A-bomb victims, Hansen's disease and Japanese Americans.

Size : 210mm×143mm, 205 pages, Price : ¥ 2000

• Buraku Problem in Japan – Buraku Liberation News No 1~50 (1981~89) –

Compiled by Buraku Liberation Research Institute

Combined edition of English language newsletter (bimonthly), "Buraku Liberation News" from Nos. 1~50, covering the period of 1981~1989.

Size : 256mm×182mm, 442 pages, Price : ¥ 2000



Marriage Discrimination by a Local Staff-member of the Ministry of Justice in Ehime Pref.

The Ministry of Justice interrupted the inquiry into the truth

In Japan, the Ministry of Justice is responsible for the administration of matters dealing with human rights. It tries to enlighten people's consciousness about human rights. It treats violations to human rights. A marriage discrimination case against a staff-member of the Legal Affairs Bureau of Matsuyama City, Ehime Pref. has occurred. This agency is an outpost of the Ministry of Justice. The Buraku Liberation League repeatedly demanded that the Ministry of Justice take action. However, the bureau continually replied only, "It is under investigation" The case happened in January, 1989. A man living in Uwa City and working at the Legal Affairs Bureau, Ehime Prefecture became acquainted with Ms. Y. who is of Buraku origin. In February, 1990 he proposed marriage to her and he also told his marriage intentions to her parents. One day in November, 1990 he asked Ms. Y whether she was from the Buraku. She said she was. On December 9, the man and Ms. Y. were out looking for a hall for their wedding party. They booked one. The next day he visited her house and formally announced the engagement. They then went out to choose their engagement ring. However, on the 13th of December (3 days before the betrothal) he made a phone call to her saying, "I can't continue the betrothal because my grandmother has collapsed." He also told her that he had cancelled the booking of the hall for their wedding. Since then he has not seen her. In

February, 1991 he sent her a message informing her of the cancellation of the engagement. He gave no sincere reason. Ms. Y asked to discuss this matter with him again and again. His attitude was insincere and he did not clarify the reason. The betrayed Ms. Y suffered from strong neurosis.

This case came into the open in 1991 when Ms. Y's mother consulted the Legal Affairs Bureau about this matter. The bureau only advised her to contact the person in question directly and settle it. They turned a deaf ear to the appeal.

Although about one year has passed since the appeal, there has been no development by the bureau. On October 3, 1992 a fact-finding meeting was held by the persons concerned. The man's father came late to the meeting and apologized to them about this matter. The man in question did not appear before the public. It has been made clear that the Ministry of Justice and the Legal Affairs Bureau of Matsuyama City used their authority to compelled the man to absent himself from the meeting. And they have interrupted the inquiry into the facts.

This case shows us the basic attitude of the Japanese government towards discriminatory incidents. It can be said that this attitude on the part of the Ministry of Justice results in such discriminatory cases. Recently these cases are getting more malignant and open.



Discrimination Against Buraku, Today (9)

Working - cont'd.

5. More Unstable Employment

1) Analyzing employment according to employment status, the ratio of regular employment in the Buraku is lower in all prefectures except Gunma, where it is similar to the ratio of the prefectural level. The ratio is especially lower in Shiga, Tottori, Shimane and Kagawa prefectures, with 10 points under the prefectural average, respectively.

2) The ratios of temporary and daily employment in the Buraku is higher in all the prefectures. As for temporary employment, Shiga and Kanagawa and, as for daily employment, Mie, Tottori, Kagawa and Kyoto prefectures have very high ratios in their respective Buraku. A bigger difference is seen in daily employment ratios of the Buraku and the prefectural average. The ratios of the Buraku in these four prefectures are three to four times higher compared to their prefectural levels.

3) As shown above, it is very characteristic in the Buraku that regular employment is less and temporary and daily employment are more than average. Also the ratio of executives is lower in all prefectures compared to that of the whole. Employment status in the Buraku can be concluded to be unstable.

6. Small Income of Workers/Employees

1) Fig. 25 and Fig. 26 show the annual income of workers and the monthly income of employees, respectively. According to the annual income of workers in Osaka prefecture, the ratio of male workers with income of less than 3 million yen is high and the ratio those with 3 million yen or more is low. Especially in the categories of '5 to 7 million yen', '7 to 10 million yen' and 'Over 10 million', the ratios are much lower compared to the prefectural level. There are many low-income workers in the Buraku.

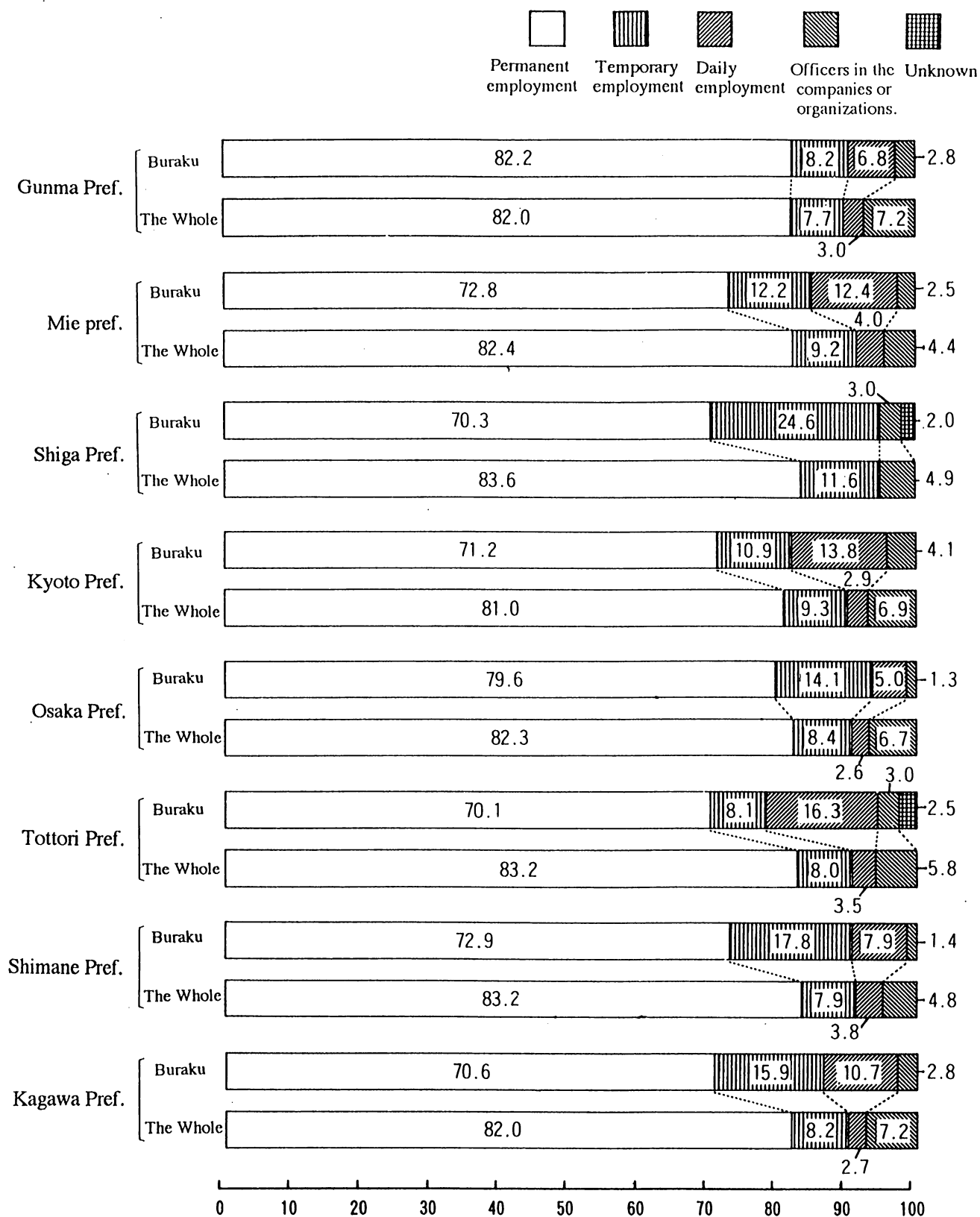
2) As for female workers, on the other hand, the ratios of 'Less than 2 million yen' and 'Over 4 million yen' of the Buraku are similar to the prefectural ratios. In general, the income of female workers is much lower than that of male workers. The fact distorts the data on the low annual income of female workers in the Buraku.

3) Monthly income of employees shown in Fig. 26 indicates that both male and female workers in the Buraku are mostly in low income categories and the ratio of 'Over 200 thousand yen' is lower than the prefectural average.

The figures for the national average are based on the 'Census on Wages' carried out for enterprises. Due to the different methods used, they cannot be precisely compared. Still, it shows that the monthly income of Buraku workers is considerably lower.



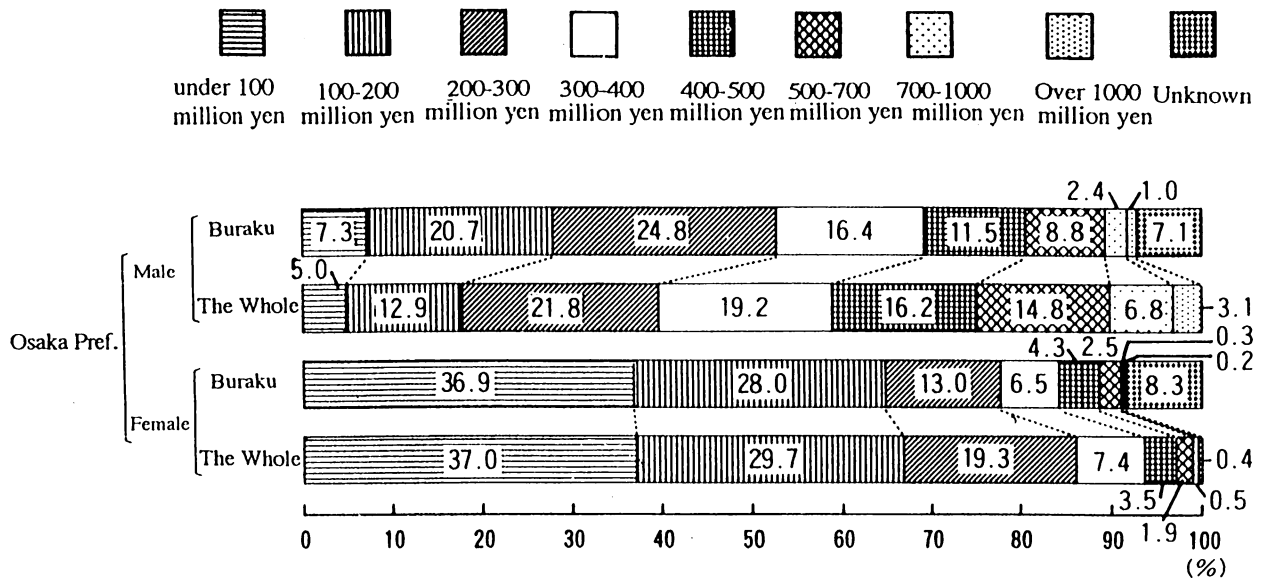
Figure 24 Employment Status



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

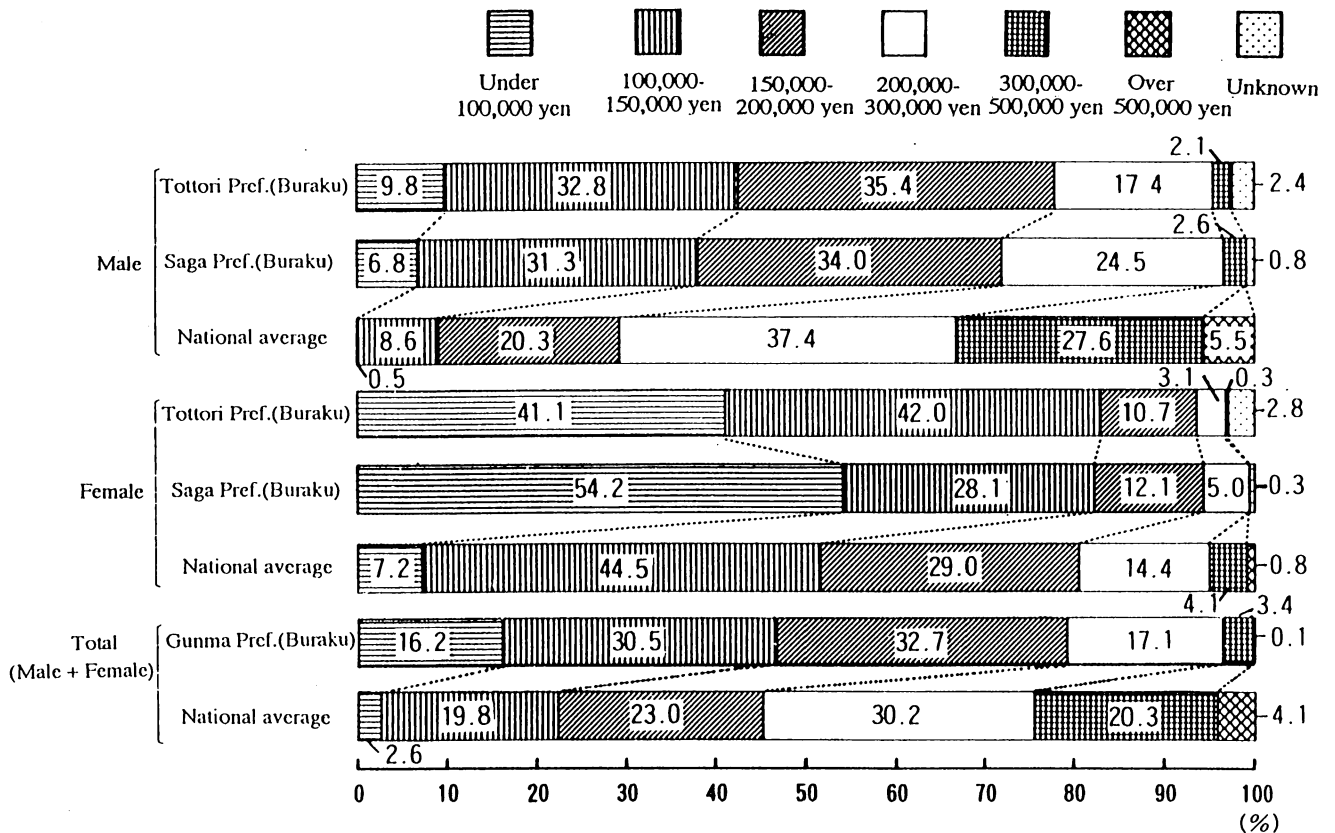


Fig. 25 Annual Income of Workers



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

Fig. 26 Monthly Income of Employees



Note: National average; from the "Census on Wages" of 1989.
'300 to 500 thousand yen' of Buraku in Tottori Pref. includes 'Over 500 thousand yen'.



CHALLENGES THAT JAPAN FACES IN HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY

In Commemoration of the 45th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

1. Human Rights - the Keyword of the 21st Century:

This year, 1993, is marked by the 45th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights which was adopted at the 3rd U.N. General Assembly. As widely known, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was adopted after reflection of World War II and is based on the belief that "the elimination of all forms of discrimination and the establishment of human rights is essential to achieve lasting peace."

Following the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, there have been 23 conventions aimed at the elimination of discrimination and the establishment of human rights adopted at the U.N. Also efforts to guarantee human rights at the regional level and efforts to promote human rights at the non-governmental level have increased.

When we consider the recent dramatic changes in world affairs such as the destruction of the soviet Union, the end of the cold war framework and intensifying ethnic conflict, we feel certain that we must return to the spirit of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and work in every possible way to implement it.

From this point of view, the U.N. World Conference on Human Rights was held in Vienna, Austria after an interval of 25 years and it adopted the "Vienna Declaration and Plan of Action."

As the 21st century comes closer, the whole world is becoming more integrated in all respects. Every individual on the earth should work for the realization of world peace, affluence and respect for human rights each with the awareness of being a global citizen.

2. Japan's Participation is Strongly Required for the Establishment of Human Rights:

Japan was defeated in World War II after A-bombs were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. During the war, Japan invaded neighboring countries and seriously damaged them. After the war, Japan pushed forward with economic rebuilding at the cost of everything else and achieved remarkable progress. Today, it has a leading position in the world.

On the other hand, Japan has neglected to address various human rights problems both inside and outside the country. This is attested to by the fact that it has ratified only 7 conventions among the 23 adopted at the U.N., and the fact that human rights problems relating to Buraku people, Ainu people, Korean residents, and foreign



migrant workers have remained unresolved.

Furthermore, Japan has not yet made an official apology and given due compensation for the suffering its aggression caused in neighboring countries during World War II.

With the 21st century drawing near, Japan is required to strive for the establishment of the human rights if it wishes to be a true "global citizen."

At the present time, a full-scale transfer of political power has taken place in Japan after 38 years of monopoly by one party. The most visible challenge that the new administration headed by prime minister Hosokawa faces is the establishment of human rights policy in Japan now faces, follows.

3. Immediate Apology and Compensation for Human Rights Violations:

During World War II, Japan did serious damage to people in nearby countries, however, to date has not given them a clear apology or due compensation.

In the U.S.A., Canada and Germany, the governments have already made official apologies together with compensation to individual victims.

Failure of the Japanese government to do so has led Asian war victims such as former military "comfort women", soldiers and civilian war employees of the Japanese military to file suits against the government. The suffering of these victims is beyond description.

The first thing Japan needs to do is to unequivocally admit its aggression and apologize and compensate its victims.

It also needs to remedy the situation of those Japanese left in China during the war.

4. Japan Needs to Join the Mainstream of Human Rights Activity in the International Community:

Since World War II, the issues of discrimination and human rights abuses have been a primary concern of the world. Following the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the U.N. alone has adopted 23 human rights conventions.

However, Japan has ratified only 7 of them. It has not ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination which 133 powers have signed and the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights that allows an individual to make allegations of human rights violation.

In addition, it should widely propagate that Vienna Declaration and Plan of Action adopted at the World Conference on Human Rights in June 1993, and draw up a scheme for implementation.



5. Contribution to the Establishment of Human Rights in the World, especially in the Asia-Pacific Region:

Now the world is rapidly being unified, and the international community is attempting to work together for the solution of human rights problems in any country or region with the initiative being taken by the U.N. and other international institutions such as UNESCO. Japan should participate in such work and take a prominent role.

At the regional level, a framework for human rights protection has been developed in Europe, America, and Africa. However, there is no such framework in the Asia-Pacific region. Japan should take the initiative in establishing it. In this context, Japan should work towards the opening of the Asia-Pacific Human Rights Information Centre scheduled for December 1994 in Osaka.

Given the fact that Japan is now one of the biggest donor countries of ODA in the world, legislation requiring that ODA is utilized for the protection of the most oppressed people in the recipient countries should be put in place.

6. The Elimination of Discrimination in the Country:

Elimination of discrimination constitutes the basis for the establishment of human rights, peace and security in society.

However, in Japan we still have serious forms of discrimination directed at Buraku people, Ainu people, Korean residents, and foreign migrant workers. Women, illegitimate children, the disabled, and the HIV carriers are also subject to discrimination.

The elimination of discrimination existing in the country is the most immediate issue Japan has to tackle. There are no laws that lead in practical terms to the elimination of individual forms of discrimination, nor is there any administrative machinery to that end. Furthermore, there is no institution that can give effective remedy to victims of human rights violations.

7. Legislation for the Elimination of Discrimination in this Country Should Be Passed:

Article 14 of the Japanese Constitution prohibits discrimination in general. However, there are no laws that implement what the article stipulates.

The International Covenants on Human Rights that Japan partly ratified in 1973 have more concrete provisions concerning the elimination of discrimination. The International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination that Japan cannot avoid ratifying calls for the elimination of discrimination in more concrete ways.



However, if we look at the Buraku issue, we have not yet seen any effective law that addresses the problem except for a series of "Special Measures for the Diowa Projects" that mainly aim at improving the environments of the victims of discrimination.

The only law applying to Ainu people is the "Hokkaido Former Tribes Protection Law." However, "Dojin" means native people, and in Japanese the word sounds quite discriminatory. Except for this obsolete law, there is none that guarantees the human rights of the indigenous people of Japan.

Regarding Korean residents, there is no law that provides war compensation and human rights protection to Korean people who were brought to Japan from Korea during colonial times.

Regarding Korean residents, there is no law that provides war compensation and human rights protection to Korean people who were brought to Japan from Korea during colonial times.

Regarding foreign migrant workers and their families living in Japan, there is no complete law designed to protect their human rights. For women, illegitimate children, the disabled and HIV carriers, no adequate legislation exists in Japan, although there is obvious discrimination against them.

Japan is required to accept international standards for the elimination of discrimination, and to start preparing adequate laws that lead to the elimination of all forms of discrimination existing in the country.

8. Adequate Administrative Machinery for the Elimination of Discrimination and the Establishment of Human Rights:

Not only adequate legislation, but also adequate administrative machinery at both the national and local levels is necessary to eliminate discrimination and establish human rights.

Japan does not have such administrative machinery except for Buraku people. However, even for the Buraku problem, the only machinery that exists is the Dowa Measures Section.

While making efforts to eliminate each form of discrimination, Japan should also strive to establish administrative machinery that helps improve overall human rights standards. A human rights ministry at the national level and human rights bureaus at the local level should be created.

9. A Remedial System for Victims of Human Rights Violations:

A remedial system is also an important factor in the elimination of discrimination.

Under the existing system, Japan has a Civil Rights Bureau in the Ministry of Justice



with commissioners appointed from the private sector. However, this system does not seem to be working effectively.

The major problems are its dependence on the state, a shortage of special knowledge and a lack of skills necessary to remedy human rights violations, and a lack of authority.

The U.N. Centre for Human Rights has set out certain standards for remedial institutions at the national level after thorough study and analysis. These standards require independence from the state and authorized special knowledge as minimum requirements.

Good examples are seen in the U.S.A. and the U.K. who have independent committee to provide remedies and the Northern European countries who have ombuds-person working for the elimination of discrimination. Japan should follow international standards and provide itself with an effective remedial system.

10. Commission on the Elimination of Discrimination and the Establishment of Human Rights in the Diet and Local Councils:

The Diet, and local councils, the supreme bodies of national and local politics, should have a permanent or extraordinary commission on the elimination of discrimination and the establishment of human rights. Also each political party should create a similar commission, and form a nonpartisan league of parliamentary members for human rights.

11. The Establishment of a Commission at National and Local Levels:

In order to continuously examine and develop remedial measures, a comprehensive commission for the elimination of discrimination and the establishment of human rights, or else a commission for each human rights issue should be created at the national and local levels. concerned organizations and experts from different sectors should be involved.

12. An Adequate Education System:

Education and enlightenment play important roles in eliminating discrimination and establishing human rights.

Educational programs and activities for this purpose are lacking in Japan. With reference to the Buraku problem, for example, among the 1,100 universities and colleges in the country, only about 300 schools provide lectures on the theme. For other human rights issues relating to Ainu people, Korean residents, foreign migrant workers,



women, illegitimate children or HIV carriers, there are few schools which provide human rights lectures.

Therefore, it is necessary to open a human rights college, implement comprehensive human rights programs at all schools and implement social education programs.

Also the Area Improvement Enlightenment Centers should be democratized in terms of structure and budget allocation and the scope of their activities extended.

Networking among the concerned organizations and institutions is required.

13. Human Rights NGOs and Networking:

Private organizations can greatly contribute to the elimination of discrimination and the establishment of human rights.

There are several ways to develop and maximize their potential: appointment of representatives from the NGOs to various committees for human rights; encouragement of human rights volunteer to work at schools; adequate measures for human rights NGOs in the light of the tax and finance system.

Also national and local networking among these NGOs is necessary.

14. Call for a Statement by Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa on December 10, the 45th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human rights:

December 10 of this year is the 45th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights first adopted at the 3rd General Assembly of the United Nations.

Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa should make a statement on this day, renouncing all forms of discrimination both inside and outside Japan and declaring a commitment to work actively toward the full realization of human rights.

Just the making of such a statement would be the start of Japan's challenge to further establish human rights. It could also be very effective in greatly enhancing interest in this issue in various sectors.

