

## **Knowledge of Social Minorities on Biodiversity and Ecological Sustainability**

On the occasion of the Eleventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP11) held in Hyderabad in October 2012, citizens from Japan (where COP10 was held the previous year) joined with citizens of India to hold the side event “Sharing Traditional Knowledge of Social Minorities on Biodiversity and Ecological Sustainability: In search of an equity-based eco-development” organized by the National Dalit Watch of National Campaign on Dalit Human Rights (NCDHR), Cordaid, Japan Civil Network for UNDB, and IMADR, with the participation of Adivasi and Dalit from India, and Ainu and Rykyu Indigenous peoples and Buraku-min from Japan.

Osamu Senaga of the Okinawa Civil Network on Bio-Diversity presented a report on the human insecurity and ecological destructions caused by US military bases in Okinawa. In support of the struggle against the spread of chronic human insecurity and the destruction of the ecological and cultural heritage of Ryukyu indigenous brothers and sisters, a participant from India proposed sending an appeal letter to the leaders and citizens of Japan and the United States, which was unanimously supported. The present Open Letter is the result of this resolution.

(Kinhide Mushakoji, IMADR Vice President)