International Consultation on Caste-based Discrimination Held in Kathmandu

Report by Megumi Komori, IMADR Under-Secretary-General

Communities affected by caste-based discrimination in Asia, Yemen and Senegal, solidarity networks in several European countries, and international organizations including international NGOs, gathered in Kathmandu for three days from November 29 to December 1, 2011, for an international consultation on good practices and strategies to eliminate caste-based discrimination. The event was organized by International Dalit Solidarity Network (IDSN) in cooperation with Feminist Dalit Organization (FEDO), Nepal National Dalit Social Welfare Organization (NNDSWO) and Dalit NGO Federation. With the participation of 100 people, the consultation began with an inaugural session attended by representatives of the Nepali government, UN Office of the Human Commissioner for Human Rights, the Danish government, and the event organizers. At this session, several speakers welcomed the recent promulgation of an act to criminalize "untouchability" and caste-based discrimination in Nepal, while calling for