

# Thirty Years of Fighting Racism

The International Movement Against All Forms of Discrimination and Racism  
Celebrates its 30th Anniversary



30IMADR

## **Thirty Years of Fighting Racism (1988-2018)**

The International Movement Against All Forms of Discrimination and Racism (IMADR) is an international non-profit, non-governmental human rights organization devoted to eliminating discrimination and racism, forging international solidarity among discriminated minorities and advancing the international human rights system. Founded in 1988 by one of Japan's largest minorities, the Buraku people, IMADR has grown to be a global network of concerned individuals and minority groups with regional committees and partners in Asia, Europe, North America and Latin America. IMADR International Secretariat is based in Japan and maintains a UN liaison office in Geneva. IMADR is in consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

### **IMADR's Core Values**

#### **empowerment**

To promote the capacity of discriminated groups to raise their voices and represent themselves in activities to combat discrimination.

#### **solidarity**

To promote cooperation and solidarity among discriminated people in ways that rise above regional, national and gender differences.

#### **advocacy**

To promote implementation of international human rights instruments through the voice and power of discriminated groups, and strengthen legal standards, institutions and organs for the elimination of discrimination and racism; to promote their effective use by the discriminated.

December 2018

**The International Movement Against All Forms of Discrimination and Racism**

International Secretariat

6 Floor, 1-7-1, Irifune, Chuo-ku, Tokyo 104-0042, Japan

tel: (81-3)6280-3101 fax: (81-3)6280-3102

e-mail: imadr[at]imadr.org



**Nimalka Fernando**

Co-chairperson  
Lawyer

## **Let Us Continue Our Struggle**

On 25<sup>th</sup> January 2018, IMADR celebrates its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary. It is a long journey of anti-discrimination struggle. While celebrating the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary, we swear that we will keep walking together with those communities which have fought against racial discrimination every day. The past 30 years was not easy to walk through. With support of our officers and partners, IMADR has maintained its movement. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have dedicatedly supported us.

Thirty years ago, with the historical decision made by the Buraku Liberation League, IMADR was founded for the purpose of developing an international solidarity against discrimination. At the time of foundation, IMADR promised to stand up and fight against injustice, discrimination and unequal treatment that the oppressed communities have long suffered, believing that the world still showed us the hope with the continued struggle against Apartheid and the untouchability. Since then, we have supported the anti-racism struggle and the struggle of Dalit community. We will continue to support minority communities in their empowerment initiatives.

In Sri Lanka, IMADR will continue the struggle of the Tamil people for the right to their own language and struggle for the participation in decision-making process. We will also continue to support the people 's efforts for reconciliation and peace-building.

The world now faces unprecedentedly difficult challenges. Giant powers contest with each other polarizing the world. We fight against the super power that attempts to divide the world. We also express our deep concern over the blatant exploitation and use of resources of our planet by the rich, while threatening the life of people, especially those who are marginalized.

The above is just part of challenges that IMADR has to tackle from now on. To pass a better world onto our future generations, we will work for these challenges through the consolidated tie with all people's movements. It is indeed the strength of solidarity and the unified objective for the realization of human rights for all that has backed our past thirty years.



**Kinhide Mushakoji**  
Co-chairperson  
international politics scholar

### **The role of IMADR in the era of the New Cold War.**

IMADR was established 30 years ago when the world put an end to the Cold War. It was the era that NGOs attempted the 'social reform' together with the United Nations in order to tackle the environmental, human rights, and development challenges. Since then, IMADR has drawn attention of the international community for its unique status as the NGO based in Japan while many organizations are based in the USA or Europe, and for its role of connecting the civil organizations fighting for anti-discrimination in many parts of the world to human rights institutions of United Nations in Geneva. It is expected to play an even more vital role in the next 30 years.

Nevertheless, it is becoming increasingly difficult for the IMADR to keep playing such a role by means of simply advocating human rights 'from outside'. It is because the international society is entering the era of the so-called New Cold War in which the political powers with discriminatory attitude towards minorities and indigenous peoples rise internationally. The sense of superiority and the feeling of indebtedness of white people are the two sides of the coin. They invoke the repulsion of the peoples of non-western regions, and this repulsion has taken the shape of terrorist attacks not only in the 'South' but also in the 'North' conducted by the migrant communities, resulting in the amplification of discriminatory attitude of conservatives in the 'North'. In order to stop the New Cold War and new racism, IMADR has to commit oneself to the 'internal' human rights advocacy. The 'internal' human rights advocacy means to promote the global reconciliation between the North and South by building solidarity among human rights and non-violent anti-discrimination movements in the North and pan pacific animism civilization including the native American peoples.

The Declaration of the Leveler's Association acknowledged that 'the warmth and light of human life' was the 'martyrs of industry' which supported the environmentally friendly sustainable economy of Edo era. IMADR upholds this human rights ideology emerged from inside our country together with the 'right to live in peace, free from fear and want of peoples of the world' and the total denial of colonial invasion enshrined in the Preamble and Article 9 of the Constitution of Japan respectively. IMADR's role is to institutionalize the solidarity among Asian countries and Asian migrants and to promote reconciliation between them and colonial powers including Japan.

It is also important to promote the relation between China and African states that is not based on colonialism but on the idea of mutual support and to incorporate the non-discrimination principle of the international human rights law in the relation. This is the point argued by 'North' states, the 'external' advocates of human rights and humanitarianism, however, this is something IMADR can contribute. In celebrating the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of IMADR, the old man sends this message to the young generations of IMADR with much expectation.



## Shigeyuki Kumisaka

Vice Chairperson  
President of Buraku Liberation League

### **Striving for the Levelers Movement throughout the World**

Jiichiro Matsumoto, the father of the Buraku liberation movement, had committed to his cause of establishing the true democracy while not tolerating any discrimination. 60 years ago, he advocated the ‘Levelers Movement throughout the World’ which aimed at the elimination of any forms of discrimination from the world by advocating his belief and building solidarity with the oppressed people in the world.

Saichiro Uesugi followed his mentor Jiichiro Matsumoto and became the fourth President of the Buraku Liberation League. He felt the great significance in promoting the “Levelers movement throughout the World”. He also felt the necessity of arousing the international public opinion on the issue of Buraku discrimination. The International Movement against All forms of Discrimination and Racism (IMADR) was established in 1988 in order to build solidarity with organizations fighting for non-discrimination and democracy in every corner of the world and to give shape to the “Leveler’s Movement throughout the World”.

Saichiro Uesugi became the first President of IMADR and had devoted to the development of IMADR. In addition to promoting solidarity with organizations and peoples fighting against discrimination around the world, there was another cooperation to be established: the cooperation with the United Nations. The IMADR’s acquisition of the UN NGO Consultative Status would mean building a linkage between the world’s anti-discrimination organizations and the United Nations. Finally, it was acquired in 1993.

Milliam Schriber took over the position of the President in 1990. It was then succeeded by Nimalka Frenando in 1995. Led by these outstanding leaders, IMADR has promoted the fight against discrimination world’s movements of discriminated communities. Taking over the wishes of our forerunners, IMADR and Buraku Liberation Movement will further promote the international movement against discrimination.



## Mario Jorge Yutzis

Vice Chairperson  
former UN CERD member

### Looking into the Future

One of the great victories of the past century was the dismantling of the Apartheid and simultaneously the rise up of a new South Africa. At the same time, the modern states created an important amount of juridical measures with the intention to struggle against different forms of racial discrimination having the support of the International Community. In particular the UN. Also, there are many NGOs. Representing the civil society as IMADR who play a fundamental and increasing role against racism, discrimination and xenophobia.

Nevertheless, in the beginning of this millennium racism still killing, hurting, humiliating and excluding millions of persons in this world.

Racism and xenophobia are coming out of the closet, in a sense, and gradually creeping into the policies of mainstream political actors. That fact is manifest not only in the backing away from cultural diversity manifested by many States, but also in restrictive policies regarding immigrants, refugees and asylum-seekers.

We cannot fail to recognize that- in the face of so much continued suffering in the world through economic, cultural, political and human Rights deprivations- much remains to be done. Surely no one can doubt that the impetus in meeting this challenge must come from NGO's institutions like IMADR. We are proud for that.

In this respect as I pointed out as chair of the UN 9<sup>th</sup>. Forum on Minority Issues- who treated the problem of the **present humanitarian crisis** is essential that governments, international organizations, local bodies and non-governmental organizations work together to protect minorities, protect them from racism, exclusion, and to protect their identities, but also their lives, particularly when humanitarian crises occur. We should call and work for a more holistic approach to improve the links between humanitarian assistance and development processes and for greater political will to bring to bear the necessary resources to do away with crises. I also want to stress that discourses on security in the face of terrorism had negatively affected the way we deal with our border control, which has become incompatible with the protection of the person.

This is a very important criterion to take into account in order to modify certain use of norms and social behaviors actions, in particular situations where the increasing of the immigrants flow exacerbates in a negative way the ethnic social relationships.

The Burakumin people's legacy of IMADR should in this 30<sup>th</sup>. anniversary, strive us in to send a clear message on Human Rights committees in general and Discrimination in particular to the people of the world and all we do during our time. Let us show worthy of this task,



**Theo van Boven**

Director  
Professor, University of Maastricht

## **Landmarks of Justice and Peace: Global and European Perspectives**

On 25 January 1988, the date of the establishment of the International Movement Against All Forms of Discrimination and Racism (IMADR), the founders formally affirmed that IMADR be “the embodiment of the spirit of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.” At the same time, in the pursuit of the authentic Buraku liberation struggle IMADR had her roots in the Levelers Declaration proclaimed in March 1922 as the collective instrument in Japan for the emancipation of the invisible and the excluded. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights and no less the Declaration of the Levelers bear the imprint of the old wisdom that what is conceived in writing holds remaining and lasting value as sources of inspiration and determination.

A decisive episode in IMADR’s history was the Durban World Conference Against Racism convened in September 2001 but soon overshadowed by the fateful events widely referred to as 9/11. IMADR prepared herself for the Durban Conference with high expectations and, with the active participation of Atsuko Tanaka who was at the time the IMADR Representative to the UN in Geneva, identified the issue of discrimination based on work and descent as one of IMADR’s core interests and priorities. However, due to fierce political resistance of a few UN member states, the issue of descent-based discrimination was not explicitly referred to in the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action. Nevertheless, the Durban process was instrumental in the creation of a deeply involved constituency of UN experts, the Dalit Caucus, as well as numerous civil society organizations, action groups from all continents, with IMADR as one of the leading partners. Already within one year after the Durban Conference, in September 2002, with the active involvement of numerous forces coping with descent-based discrimination, the UN Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD) adopted as a landmark instrument General Recommendation XXIX in which the Committee formally concluded that discrimination based on descent includes discrimination against members of communities based on forms of social stratification such as caste and analogous systems of inherited status which nullify or impair their equal enjoyment of human rights.

In recent years, up till the present day and with promising prospects for future generations, international and domestic action to combat descent-based discrimination is gaining ground with new dimensions and increased impetus. An effective illustration is the recent International Consultation for the Elimination of Descent-Based Discrimination held in Osaka on 9 April 2018, hosted by IMADR and the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. In the Declaration adopted at this International Consultation a series of pledges are affirmed, with special reference to the comprehensive UN Guidance Tool on Descent-based Discrimination, duly noting the positive role of civil society organizations, in particular those led by Dalit, Burakumin and other affected communities in combatting descent-based discrimination. It is obvious that the Durban process was historic but not confined to the past. As indicated in the Osaka Declaration, it is overdue and incumbent on the Human Rights Council as the principal human rights body of the United Nations to address descent-based discrimination as a

global issue and to establish a special procedure mechanism mandated to promote the elimination of descent-based discrimination.

IMADR, while having her roots and origin in Japan, has over the years become increasingly aware that her objectives and actions are not restricted to one region or one belief system. She is part and parcel in facing challenges worldwide and in all continents, including Europe. A major current challenge is the posture of political leaders in various parts of the world who are staging themselves on a platform of self-serving myopic nationalist interests. They project themselves to ways of behaviour with utter defiance of the rule of law and disrespect for fundamental human rights. It is a matter of serious concern that in this connection persistent policies are devised to rule out what they consider unwelcome or hostile sectors of the media and thus manipulate factual information by spreading so-called alternative or fake truths. We are currently facing a political and social climate where such political leaders are waving the xenophobic flag and spreading the racist message of “Our Own People First”. The slogan “America First” is the very prototype of the same kind.

Nevertheless, while political leaders come and go, but as an African human rights defender declared in a moving statement at the United Nations in the aftermath of a dark period of oppression and persecution in his country, the peoples of the world remain a lasting constituency and a source of commitment. It was in the name of “We the Peoples” that the United Nations Charter was proclaimed and it is in the same spirit that IMADR joined the ranks of civil society organizations with consultative status in the UN. In an era of nationalistic seclusion and social exclusion, the plight of minorities, in particular sexual minorities, indigenous peoples, refugees, migrants, people of different colour, descent, religion or belief, ethnic or national origin, is essentially at stake. Above all, “People Matter”.





## Burnad Fathima Natesan

Director  
Advisory, Society for Rural Education and Development

On this special occasion of IMADR's 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, the SRED team takes immense pleasure in appreciating and congratulating IMADR for its contribution in challenging racism and addressing Caste discrimination before the international forums. SRED is proved that it is recognized as an active member and serves as one of the Directors of SRED.

It was a great effort taken by IMADR involving Dalit, Buraku community to see that caste discrimination is considered as Discrimination Based on Work and 'Descent' and is included in the general recommendation of CERD, though it was not included in the Durban conference. Without the support of IMADR Dalit women would not have participated in the Durban conference and in CERD experts meeting in Geneva to ensure the word 'descent' be included in the Recommendations. Caste discrimination continues to be the major agenda for SRED and its people's movements, to which SRED is always indebted to recognize the contribution of IMADR.

IMADR to be remembered and thanked for supporting grass root Dalit communities translating General guidelines of ICERD from English to Tamil, helping to understand in our own language about Guidelines of the Elimination of Discrimination Based on work and Descent.

SRED was one of the members of IMADR that carried out Advocacy against caste discrimination at the UN level, regional and at the National level. Internationally IMADR's campaigns and Advocacy has been against caste discrimination, on Buraku discrimination, the issues of Sinti and Roma and the discrimination of indigenous communities.

SRED admires IMADR's continuous support to Sri Lankan Tamils suffered in civil and ethnic conflicts. IMADR has internationalized the issue and supported the cause of Sri Lankan Tamils through continuous meetings and helping the families of disappeared.

Tamil Nadu Dalit Women's Movement and Dalit women of Tamil Nadu, who were part of the conferences, extend their support to Dalit women collective farms and support Dalit children on Ambedkar studies, are also sending their congratulatory message to IMADR on this special occasion.

Dalit women are treated untouchables; they are every day made to do manual scavenging. 95% of the manual scavengers are Dalit women (The Hindu Feb 15, 2018). Caste based discrimination of labor due to manual scavenging continuous even after the Act has been passed. Dalits are manual scavengers, should be liberated from the dirty, dangerous, devalued difficult work which affects their health and make them polluted and called as untouchable. They need to be safeguarded under "the protection of employment as manual scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act 2013".

Dalit women are treated as sex slaves, dedicated to goddess Mathamma practices are religious, fundamentalists' attitudes, and practices to be eliminated totally to bring a society where everyone needs to be treated equally.

The future challenges for us is that the poor Dalits are facing through globalization process which is depriving economic opportunities and pushing dalits more into poverty and to live in hunger, with unemployment and underemployment.

IMADR to join economic and political challenges of discriminated communities who are facing difficulties due to free trade agreements, through New Economic policies which are looting the country's natural resources on which dalit communities are depended for livelihood.

IMADR's future challenge is to join the movements of people against Human Rights violations of the minorities, vulnerable communities and the marginalized. The challenges from Brahminical patriarchy with reference to India where Dalit women face multiple discrimination, patriarchy, culture, communalism, corporate hegemony and corruption.



**Durga Sob**

Director

Founding Director of Feminist Dalit Organization (FEDO)

## **Strengthening the Global Solidarity Among the Oppressed**

I am very happy and extremely grateful that IMADR has successfully completed its 30 years of wonderful journey. IMADR over all these years has been able to build link and strengthen networks with the minority communities throughout the region. It works with minorities from Asia, Europe, North America and Latin America due to which we have been able to connect, share, learn and establish a global network to fight against all forms of racism and discrimination.

Discrimination has been world-wide phenomenon that has existed since centuries and is still existing. It occurs in many forms, perpetuated by various norms, customs, and practices and is faced by those group who are put at the bottom of the hierarchy and lack agency. In Nepal and Japan too; Dalit and Buraku communities are historically discriminated communities, who have struggled to create a space to live a life with dignity. This was and still not an easy task for us, to empower and advocate for them.

IMADR has provided us the platform to spread awareness about the discrimination prevalent in the different countries. It has motivated us to work in solidarity and strengthen each other's movement. Further, IMADR has also given an international recognition to the issues of Dalits in Nepal, and has been supporting to overcome the challenges by building the socio-economic capacities of the most marginalized and discriminated groups at the grass-root level.

FEDO and IMADR have been working hand in hand for many years now. IMADR has always supported us and especially to uplift the situation of Dalit women at the grass-root level who often are the victims of gender and caste based violence and other heinous forms of discrimination. IMADR has become a medium for us to internationally establish the issue of Dalit women so that the issues of Dalit women are not limited within Nepal rather is a global issue. This has helped spread awareness amongst many and people have come forward to eradicate discrimination and bring change.

I strongly believe that discrimination should not exist in any form and each and every individual regardless of caste, class, gender, race and ethnicity should have the right to enjoy and live a meaningful and dignify life. For this, every individual should have respect and empathy for one other. However, this is not the case. Millions of people globally struggle to speak against the discriminatory practices. In such context, we human rights activists should take forward our campaign in order to protect and promote the Human Rights of minority groups and discriminated communities.

At last, I would like to say that the global solidarity as established by IMADR has to be strengthened to put an end to all forms of discrimination and we should continuously work for their betterment. I present my gratitude to IMADR and ensure that I will continuously support for the movement.



**Hélène Sackstein**  
Advisor  
journalist

## **SOME THOUGHTS ON IMADR'S 30<sup>TH</sup>**

IMADR at 30 has come of age and made its mark. It definitely proved that it's ready to move on and strengthen its agenda to include issues unfortunately not prioritized in the global fight against discrimination and racism.

As an Asian-based NGO it's particularly well positioned to deal with the issue of descent- and work-based discrimination. This includes the intractable issue of caste which has only been most timidly dealt with by the UN human rights mechanisms. It is admittedly a difficult issue as it is challenged by powerful political, economic and emotional interests in some countries which have, on occasion, been on the forefront of the fight against racism. This however, should not be a deterrent for IMADR and it might be time to take up the fight vigorously.

Another issue which extends naturally from IMADR's present agenda is that of the lack of freedom of expression of minorities. They rarely get the attention of mainstream media unless they have been horrendously victimized or have revolted in a somewhat spectacular manner. Hence, they simply become not only voiceless, but invisible as well.

With the cooperation of NGOs dealing with freedom of expression having access to the media, IMADR could consider cooperative initiatives such as the training of communities and the promotion of homegrown journalism talents.

A second severe handicap for some minorities is language. Frequently referred to as 'linguistic minorities', they speak languages unknown to the majority of their fellow citizens in countries where the dominant language - be it English (most often), French or Spanish - tends to impose itself imperialistically, ignoring minorities speaking other languages. Governments are not particularly interested - and have no incentive - in making any attempt to develop programs to pull those minorities out of their isolation.

Here again, IMADR could seek cooperation with academia and other NGOs working on these issues to initiate actions.

These suggestions would first require some brain storming to identify organizational potential and possible focus - perhaps beginning with the Asian region. It would mean seeking new alliances with academia and relevant NGOs as well as working with UN mechanisms beyond IMADR's traditional CERD partnership.

Finally, as a first step, it may lead to the development of a small pilot project to seek funding.

This seems overly ambitious but, as a French saying goes (in translation): 'small streams become large rivers'...

As a conclusion, I wish IMADR a great 30<sup>th</sup> birthday



**Michael Sharpe**

Director  
Associate Professor, City University of New York

## **On the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of IMADR**

The 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of IMADR is a historic human rights milestone that shines light in these days of the periodic darkness of populist nationalism that seeks to exploit minority communities for political and economic gain. We must remember the plight and suffering of those who face discrimination and prejudice around the world.

Our post-cold war neoliberal world order has enormously enriched a few corporate entities and individuals at the expense of long overdue economic gains and social mobility for many poor and working class people. This has fueled a populist nationalist backlash around the world and a vulnerability to being manipulated by leaders peddling misguided “resistance to elites” with racism and intolerance targeting minority groups and multiculturalism and blaming them for mass economic and political malaise. We are living in a time reminiscent of the pre-World War II period with reason and decency derided and authoritarian tendencies and demagoguery applauded and rewarded with popularity and victory at the polls. A significant departure from the past is that these developments have been accelerated via the global communications infrastructure where individual positions are hardened with fiction or blatant lies presented as credible or “alternative facts” in the internet’s and some mass media’s vast echo chambers of like-minded individuals with no room for alternative viewpoints. Both old and new “others”, e.g. Latinos and Middle Eastern and African refugees in North America as well as Eastern Europeans and Middle Eastern and African refugees in Europe, are presented as liabilities and credible threats to national security and economic viability mandating economic, social, and political closure rather than openness, “America First”, “Fortress Europe”, border reinforcement, and maintenance of a presumed ethnic and racial homogeneity. These and other related ethnocentric and exclusionary policy ideas are considered imminent remedies for a shaky and vulnerable economic and political present and future and rationalized within a neoliberal framework that ultimately serves the interests of big business and international capital.

It is important that those who experience marginalization unite with one another and in solidarity with people of good will to combat racism, discrimination, and prejudice. In this era of fake news and apathy, young and old alike must be vigilant and seek credible media, read newspapers, and join an organization as civil society is a critical bedrock in building participatory and inclusive democracies with protections for minorities and the vulnerable. IMADR continues to play an important role in these efforts which includes its consciousness raising initiatives about work and descent-based discrimination, the ICERD and other international legal mechanisms, interventions at the UN Human Rights Committee, and building a network and giving voice to discriminated groups at the international level. The 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of IMADR is a timely occasion to revitalize its vision and seek new and innovative strategies for the challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century in the struggle against racism, discrimination, and prejudice and the maintenance of human dignity, peace, compassion, and understanding.

## **Co-Chairpersons**

Nimalka Fernando(Sri Lanka)	Lawyer
Kinhide Mushakoji(Japan)	International politics scholar

## **Vice Chairs**

Mario Jorge Yutzis(Argentina)	Former member, UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
Bernadette Hetier(France)	Co-President, The Movement Against Racism and for Friendship between Peoples(MRAP)
Shigeyuki Kumisaka(Japan)	President, Buraku Liberation League

## **Managing Director**

Fujihiko Nishijima(Japan)	Secretary-General, Buraku Liberation League
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## **Directors**

Romani Rose(Germany)	Chairman, Central Council of German Sinti and Roma
Theo van Boven(Netherlands)	Professor, University of Maastricht
Burnad Fatima Natesan(India)	Advisor, Society for Rural Education and Development (SRED)
Durga Sob(Nepal)	President, Feminist Dalit Organisation (FEDO)
Michael O. Sharpe(USA)	Assistant Professor, York College of the City University of New York
Tadashi Kato(Japan)	Executive Director, Ainu Association of Hokkaido
Nanako Inaba(Japan)	Professor, Sophia University, Solidarity Network with Migrants Japan
Hitoshi Okuda(Japan)	Director, The Buraku Liberation and Human Rights Research Institute
Masaki Okajima(Japan)	President, Japan Teachers Union
Ryuko Kusano(Japan)	Chairman, Joint Conference of Religious Sects on Dowa Issues
Suil Kim(Japan)	Secretary-General, Kanagawa Mintouren
Shin Hae Bong(Japan)	Professor, Faculty of Law, Aoyama Gakuin University
Takahisa Iwane(Japan)	Executive Director, National Industrial Federation on Dowa and Human Rights Issues
Atsuko Miwa(Japan)	Director, Asia-Pacific Human Rights Information Center

## **Auditors**

Takashi Akai(Japan)	Finance President, Buraku Liberation League
Makoto Kubo(Japan)	Professor, Osaka Sangyo University

## **Advisory Panel**

Helene Sackstein	Gender and Child Protection Specialist
Penda Mbow(Senegal)	Professor, Université Cheikh Anta Diop, Dakar
Kenzo Tomonaga(Japan)	Honorary Director, Buraku Liberation and Human Rights Research Institute
Yoko Hayashi(Japan)	Lawyer, President, UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women

## Tracing Back through 30 Years of IMADR 1988 - 2018

To mark the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary, we trace back the history and development of the organization with those pictures which are available in data.



On 25 January 1988, the International Movement Against All Forms of Discrimination and Racism (IMADR) was founded with the aim of promoting the Leveler's movement throughout the world. Saichiro Uesugi, the then President of Buraku Liberation League became the first President of IMADR. In 1990, IMADR Japan Committee was set up.

Romani Rose, Chairperson of the Central Council of German Sinti and Roma, attending the inauguration meeting (second from the left). The person giving a speech is Suelo Murakoshi, then Secretary General of IMADR.



After the inauguration meeting, the gathering to mark the foundation was organized. Takako Doi, the then Chairperson of Japan Socialist Party, was giving her speech.



In December 1988, the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Symposium against Discrimination was held in Fukuoka, Osaka, Nagoya, Nagano and Tokyo.

In Osaka, it was combined with the symposium to mark the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

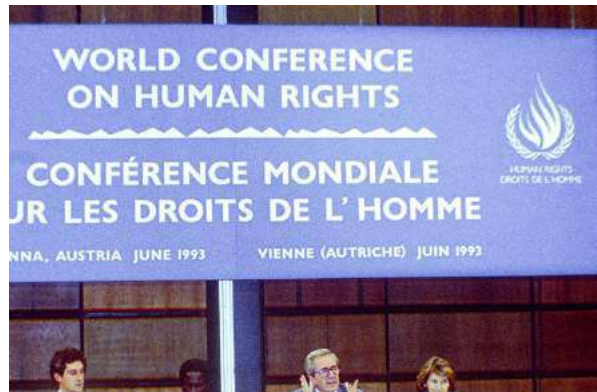
The 3<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly of the IMADR was held in Quezon city, the Philippines, in November 1992.



The international symposium on the issue of “Indigenous Peoples and Development” was held after the 3<sup>rd</sup> GA. Gi-ichi Nomura, the then Executive Director of the Ainu Association of Hokkaido gave his presentation in the symposium.



The World Conference on Human Rights was organized in Vienna, Austria in June 1993. The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights was established according to the Vienna Programme of Actions adopted by the Conference.



The plenary session of the World Conference on Human Rights (June 1993).

For the period from April to June of 1994, a series of incidents of slashing the uniform of Korean school students took place one after another in Japan. It was known as ‘hanbok incident’. Hatred against Korean residents in Japan has existed since the pre-war.

Miriam Schreiber, the then President of IMADR, visiting the Korean school during her visit to Japan in October 1994.







The 8<sup>th</sup> BDM was held in New Jersey in November 1995. Nimalka Fernando took over the seat of the President of IMADR from Miriam Schreiber.

In December 1995, Japan acceded to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. From the beginning, the government has kept its own interpretation of “descent” in Article 1-1 of the Convention and not admitted that Buraku discrimination falls under the Convention.



From 28 August to 8 September 2001, the World Conference against Racism was held in Durban, South Africa. Buraku and Dalit communities sent many participants to advocate the inclusion of ‘discrimination based on work and descent’ in the declaration.

At the Durban Conference. 260 million people are those who are affected by the “discrimination based on work and descent” throughout the world.



A participant holding a hairband that reads ‘Dalit rights are human rights’. At the Durban Conference.



IMADR held workshops on ‘Discrimination based on work and descent’, ‘Intersectionality of discrimination’ and ‘Trafficking in persons’.

Workshop on ‘discrimination based on work and descent’. Presentation was given by representatives of Dalit communities in India and those from Buraku Liberation League.

The term ‘discrimination based on work and descent’ was not included in the outcome document of the Durban Conference. In 2002, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination adopted its General Recommendation No. 29 reaffirming that caste and Buraku were included in the descent as per Article 1-1 of the Convention.

The workshop on ‘intersectionality of discrimination’. Dalit women appealing that Dalit women are deprived of their rights and are facing violence.



In November 2002, Burnad Fatima of the Society for Rural Education and Development (SRED) visited Buraku communities in Wakayama, Nara and other cities. Her visit helped build the solidarity between SRED and IMADR resulting in the construction of day-care centres in more than 10 Dalit villages in Tamil-Nadu.

Burnad Fatima enjoying the workshop with children in Wakayama city.



In December 2003, after the scrap of Human Rights Protection Bill, IMADR urged the Government of Japan to establish a national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles and held a seminar inviting representatives of Asia Pacific Forum of National Human Rights Institutions (APF).

Kieren Fitzpatrick as Director of the APF, giving her presentation at the expert workshop held on 8 December 2003.



On 6 March 2004, Miriam Schreiber, the second president of IMADR passed away in Belgium. She was given the 5<sup>th</sup> Matsumoto Jiichiro Award in 1993 for her significant contribution to IMADR.

In November 2004, the 14th BDM was held in Cuernavaca, Mexico. The late Rodolfo Stavenhagen as IMADR director is sitting at the front row second from the left.





Symposium held in November 2004, after the 14<sup>th</sup> BDM. It was co-sponsored by the Human Rights Academy of the state of Morelos. It focused on the current situation of oppressed minority communities throughout the world.



Central Council of German Sinti and Roma has been the member organisation of IMADR since its foundation. Roma people are marginalised in the societies in many European countries and have been repeatedly targeted for persecution and forced eviction.

In June 2005, the Central Council of German Sinti and Roma and IMADR sent the fact-finding team to study the situation of the Roma in Slovakia.



In July 2005, Dou-dou Diène, the UN Special Rapporteur on Racism made the official visit to Japan. As a coordinator among civil society organizations, IMADR arranged his visit to the communities of Buraku, Koreans, migrant workers, the Ainu people, and Okinawa. In the following year, groups of these communities and NGOs set up the network for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (ERD Net) with IMADR as the secretariat of the network.

Special Rapporteur Dou-dou Diène, meeting with elderly Korean residents in Kyoto (July 2005).



In March 1993, IMADR acquired the UN consultative status with the ECOSOC. Since then, the operation in Geneva became more important to IMADR. In 1996, Atsuko Tanaka was appointed to the representative of IMADR Geneva office. Her commitment to human rights work helped IMADR gain a firm foothold in Geneva and strengthen the solidarity among the oppressed including Buraku, Dalits, other minorities and indigenous peoples throughout the world. The late Atsuko Tanaka with Joe Hunkins, the intern at the Geneva office (March 2003).

The 2<sup>nd</sup> IMADR Executive Committee Meeting was held in Geneva in March 2006. While in Geneva, members made a courtesy visit to Louise Arbour, the fifth UN High Commissioner for Human Rights.



Tsunami also hit the civil war-affected areas in Sri Lanka. In August 2006, IMADR Asia Committee provided sewing machines for women who lost their means of income.



The coastal areas of India and Sri Lanka facing the Indian Ocean were severely damaged by Indian Ocean Tsunami in December 2004. IMADR successfully drove the campaign for emergent relief funds. The earthquake revealed the problematic relation between discrimination and disaster, and women's rights and disaster.

Under the UN Reform, in 2006 the Commission on Human Rights was reorganized into the Human Rights Council. Human Rights Council consists of 47 member states and holds three regular sessions a year.



The late Atsuko Fox Tanaka of IMADR UN Office standing in front of the European Headquarters of the UN where the Human Rights Council is held.

IMADR took part in the 7<sup>th</sup> World Socialist Forum held in Nairobi, Kenya in January 2007, and organized the workshop on the Descent-Based Discrimination.



The photo of the workshop at the World Socialist Forum in Nairobi. (from the left) Penda Mbow, Nimalka Fernando and Burnad Fatima, all IMADR officers.



In September 2006, the report of Doudou Diène as Special Rapporteur on Racism, on his official visit to Japan was submitted to the UN. ERD Net held a press conference at the Foreign Correspondent's Club on this matter. The Government of Japan objected his report in many aspects. The report is still highly evaluated for its comprehensive analysis on the reality of minority communities and the structure of racial discrimination in Japan.

The press conference on the report of Doudou Diène held at the Foreign Correspondent's Club, organized by the ERD Net.



Founding conference of the ERD Net held in February 2007. The impetus to set up the ERD Net was the official visit of the Special Rapporteur, Doudou Diène.



The 15<sup>th</sup> Board of Director's Meeting and the 7<sup>th</sup> General Assembly were held in Chennai, Tamil Nadu in March 2007. Many local Dalit organizations and women's organizations participated in the meeting. The damage caused by the great Indian Ocean Tsunami was still there.

The photo of the 15<sup>th</sup> Board of Director's Meeting.



Panel discussion held after the BDM and the GA in March 2007. Young local women who were learning the traditional Dalit dance performed the dance and drumming.

After the 7<sup>th</sup> GA, participants split into two groups and visited Dalit villages and the tsunami-affected areas. In one of fishery villages facing the Indian ocean, all fishing equipment was swept by the Tsunami. The emergency aid and the reconstruction assistance for the affected Dalit villages was put on the back-burner leaving Dalit people behind.

In March 2007, a fishing boat was given to the fishery village of the Dalit community by the support fund of IMADR.



In February 2008, the seminar was held with Kimberlé Crenshaw as a lecturer. She raised an important question and conducted the research on the 'intersectionality' of the discrimination against African-American women. Ms. Crenshaw contributed to the inclusion of the gender perspective in the discussion of the World Conference against Racism 2001.

Kimberlé Crenshaw and Ms. Yuriko Moto, as IMADR Fellow.



The review on Japan by the Human Rights Committee was conducted in October 2008. Kazuo Ishikawa as the victim of false accusation of the Sayama Case went to observe the review and appealed 'I am innocent' at the NGO briefing. The Committee recommended Japan to stop the forced confession and to promote the recording of interrogation.

Kazuo and Sachiko Ishikawa at the review.



In March 2009, the 16<sup>th</sup> BDM was held in Berlin, Germany. It adopted the letter to request the Government of Germany to strengthen the human rights protection program for minority communities including the attack on Internet against Sinti and Roma.

The 16<sup>th</sup> BDM in Berlin.





In April 2009, the Durban Review Conference was held in the UN in Geneva. IMADR sent two delegations to the conference.

Panel discussion was organized to appeal, “Caste-based discrimination is racial discrimination.”



2008 Trafficking in Persons Report of the US Department of State stated that Japan was the second largest human trafficking country. In July 2009, the UN Special Rapporteur on Trafficking, Joy Ngozi Ezeilo made the official visit to Japan. NGOs including IMADR had the conference with Ms. Ezeilo and gave her the report on Japan.

The conference with the Special Rapporteur on Trafficking, Joy Ngozi Ezeilo held in Tokyo in July 2009.



The 6<sup>th</sup> review on Japan by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women was conducted in New York in July 2009. Buraku, Ainu, Ryukyu/Okinawan and Korean women went to observe the review and spoke at the NGO briefing.

Delegations from minority communities in Japan at the NGO briefing.



CERD conducted the second review on Japan in February 2010. The committee issued strong recommendations on the Buraku discrimination and showed grave concern over the incident of the hatred attack against the Korean school.

NGO briefing by the ERD Net conducted before the Japan Review.

Navi Pillay, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, made her official visit to Japan. She had two meetings with NGOs. IMADR arranged one of the meetings in which the high commissioner had the dialogue with representatives of minority communities including Buraku, the Ainu, Ryukyu/Okinawa, Korean residents and migrant workers.

Kazuo Ishikawa calling for the disclosure of evidence and the retrial in the Sayama Case.



On 11 March 2011, the Great East Japan Earthquake occurred. Tokyo was hit by the earthquake, too. Three months later IMADR moved its office to Chuo-ku, Tokyo, with the relocation of Matsumoto Jiichiro Memorial Hall.

The former office of IMADR in Roppongi.



The rightward trend in the Eastern Europe and the re-rise of Neo-Nazi in Germany negatively affect the most marginalized communities in society. Central Council of German Sinti and Roma and IMADR sent a joint mission to study the attack on a Rome family in Hungary in June 2011.

Nimalka Fernando (Center) and Romani Rose (Right) as the head of mission.



Dalit and Buraku communities have intensively worked for the advocacy of the issue in Geneva since 2000. In June 2011, the review meeting over the decade of UN advocacy was held in Geneva. After the meeting, participants visited Navi Pillay, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, at her office in the OHCHR.

Delegations presenting a shawl to Navi Pillay.







The 17<sup>th</sup> BDM held on September 12, 2011 at Matsumoto Jiichiro Memorial Hall in Tokyo.



The 8<sup>th</sup> General Assembly was held on September 13, 2011 in Tokyo. In the afternoon, the 20<sup>th</sup> Human Rights Seminar on 'Disaster and Human Rights' was held.

After the GA, IMADR officers moved to Osaka to visit Buraku communities and Osaka Human Rights Museum (Liberty Osaka). They had the exchange meeting with Buraku women in Osaka.



In March 2012, the 6<sup>th</sup> executive committee meeting was held in Geneva. 2012 marked the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the National Levelers' Association. IMADR organized the side event at the venue of the Human Rights Council to focus on the minority rights.

IMADR Side event inviting the representative of the Pavee Point, an NGO of Irish Travelers.



In June 2012, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Forum of Minority Women was held in Okinawa. Since it was the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Okinawa's reversion to Japan, the Forum provided a good opportunity to look back the history of Okinawa.

Woman delegations from Buraku, the Ainu, Koreans and Okinawa altogether.

In January 2013, IMADR welcomed its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Hosted by the Asia Committee, the symposium celebrating the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary was held in Colombo. After the ceremony, IMADR delegation from Japan, India, Germany and Nepal visited the tea plantation in Kandy and met the group of victims of the forced disappearance nearby Colombo.

Directors of IMADR giving presentation at the symposium.



In May 2013, IMADR organized the workshop in Bangalore, India, to encourage Dalit women to make a film by themselves. Participants from FEDO, SRED, and the plantation group in Sri Lanka had the lecture and skill trainings. For most of the participants, it was the first time to make their own video.

Female activists from Nepal and Sri Lanka.



In August 2014, the 3<sup>rd</sup> CERD review on Japan was conducted in Geneva. Committee members expressed their strong concern over the intensifying hate speech against minority communities in Japan. Committee made a strong recommendation urging the Government of Japan to adopt a comprehensive anti-discrimination law.

NGO briefing right before the Japan review.



In February 2016, the CEDAW review on Japan was conducted in Geneva. Ainu women called for their inclusion in the decision-making process of policies for the Ainu people.

Ainu women reading a statement at the NGO briefing.





Buraku women urging the government to conduct a study to get actual situation of minority women in Japan. During the CEDAW review in February 2016.

Women holding placards reading ‘I am Buraku woman’.



Hate speech and racism gained public concern from 2015 to 2016. To respond to people’s voice, especially from civil society organizations, the bills were adopted by the Parliament in 2016. One is the act for the elimination of hate speech and the act for the promotion of elimination of Buraku discrimination. Unfortunately, both acts do not contain a punitive clause, but focus on awareness-raising and education. Participants calling for the legislation to criminalize racial discrimination on the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination on March 21, 2016.

In June 2016, IMADR and IMADR-JC were consolidated to become IMADR during the general meeting.



Mario Yutzis of the IMADR LA Base held a workshop on human rights for the youth in Argentina in September 2016.



The civil war in Sri Lanka finally ended in 2009 with a grave issue of large-scale forced disappearance of civilians left unsolved. In 2016, the Government of Sri Lanka enacted the law to establish the Office on Missing Persons (OMP). People are marching calling for the truth and justice.

Many people who lost their family members or friends participated in the march. IMADR AC has been working on this issue for a long time.

David Kaye, the UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression, focused on the issue of suppression on the assembly protesting against the construction of the US military base in Henoko, Okinawa in his 2017 report. IMADR organized a side event with David Kayes and Hiroji Yamashiro, the chair of Okinawa Peace Movement Center as panelists.

David Kaye making his presentation at the side event in May 2017.



Members of Parsa branch of FEDO marched for the elimination of discrimination against women in November 2017. Parsa branch works on the program to reduce violence against Dalit women with the support of the Jodo Shu Peace Association and IMADR.

For Dalit women in the local community in Parsa, it never happened before that they came out on the street and raised their voices.



OHCHR and IMADR jointly organized the international consultation on the elimination of decent-based discrimination on April 9, 2018. Representatives of NGOs in India, Nepal, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Japan participated. The former UN special rapporteur on minority issues, Rita Izsák-Ndiaye also took part in the conference.

All the participants of the international consultation in Osaka.



OHCHR and IMADR jointly held the international symposium for the elimination of decent-based discrimination at the Diet Member's Office Building of the Lower House on April 12, 2018. Law makers, media, NGOs, and civilians were invited. More efforts are needed to put an end to discrimination based on descent through the collaboration between the UN and the civil society.

The venue was filled with zest of the participants in the symposium on 12 April.



## International Movement Against All Forms of Discrimination and Racism

### Prospectus

1. There exists various forms of discrimination and human rights violation in the world in which we live today. Discrimination and human rights violation are infringement of human rights of not only those who suffer from such acts but also those who discriminate against, and violate human rights of, others, as well as a threat to peaceful society.

That is the reason why the elimination of discrimination and protection of human rights have been a long-cherished desire of mankind, have been advanced by the efforts of many people at the cost of a great number of lives, and today the spirit of which is incorporated in the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenants on Human Rights, the International Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.

As we look at the present situation surrounding us, however, we still continue to witness serious cases of discrimination and frequently occurring human rights violations. What is worse, there even signs of further deterioration, which are indeed a threat to world peace.

At this very moment, we all have to back once again to the fundamental spirit of the UN Charter and Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and strengthen the international solidarity. All the states, inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations and individuals around the world are now required to further intensify their efforts toward the elimination of discrimination and protection of human rights.

2. Once Japan oppressed human rights within the country, and the invaded neighboring nations doing serious damage to them. Behind those brutal acts were neglect of human rights and the idea of national superiority.

After the defeat in the World War II, and through full reflection on this, we, Japanese people renounced war, and established a new constitution based on the respect for human rights and international cooperation which declared that the sovereignty rested with the people.

However, we still find, in Japan, discrimination practiced against Buraku people, ethnic groups, women and disabled persons, as well as a number of human rights violations.

Under these circumstances, enormous efforts have been accumulated, not only by the central and local governments but also by private, organizations and individuals, to eliminate all forms of discrimination existing in Japan and in the world and to protect human rights through international solidarity. Among them, Buraku Liberation Movement, with its over sixty years of experience in anti-discrimination activities since the foundation of Zenkoku Suiheisha (National Levelers Association) on March 3, 1922, has actively promoted various work to achieve that goal. For example, we protested against the persecution of the Jew in pre-war Germany, and after the war, we participated in world conferences to call for the elimination of racial discrimination and active solidarity with outcaste people in India. More recently, we have been actively participating in the activities proposed by the UN toward the elimination of discrimination and protection of human rights.

In particular, we held an international human rights symposium in 1980, the First International Conference against Discrimination, and from 1984, every year in December, assemblies to call for the embodiment of the spirit of the Universal Declaration.

Through these activities, we have strengthened solidarity with various organizations and individuals who have been working toward the same goal.

3. Then here we declare the establishment of "The International Movement Against All Forms of Discrimination and Racism" aimed at the embodiment of the spirit of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, in particular, the elimination of all forms of discrimination from the whole world and the protection of human rights in concert with the efforts of the UN.

Today we live in the world which is most internationalized than any other period in the past. That is to say, discrimination and human rights violations in one country inevitably affect the others, and the elimination of discrimination and protection of human rights in one country are inseparably bound up with those in the rest of the world. Furthermore, as history tells us, human rights can be protected only when peace is secured.

"The International Movement Against All Forms of Discrimination and Racism" will exert its utmost efforts to eliminate discrimination from the whole world, to protect human rights and to secure world peace through firm solidarity with organizations and individuals in the world who work for the same goal.

January 25, 1988

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