



Tear Down the Barriers of Caste

Report by Megumi Komori, IMADR Under-Secretary-General | FEATURE STORY

To make the decade 2011 to 2020 a decisive decade against discrimination based on work and descent, a two-day strategic conference was organized on June 24 and 25, 2011, in Geneva, by a group of organizations and movements including IMADR, the National Campaign on Dalit Human Rights (NCDHR-India), the International Dalit Solidarity Network (IDSN), and other local, regional and international organizations. Participating in the conference were about 50 people from India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Japan, and Europe. Several guests from the UN agencies, including the Office of High Commissioner for Human Rights, were also in attendance.

Over the past decade since the 2001 Durban Conference, affected communities of discrimination based on work and descent have made significant achievements in terms of their efforts for the elimination of discrimination. However, many challenges remain in order to comprehensively eliminate descent and work-based discrimination (DWD), which affects 260 million people worldwide.

The two-day conference mainly consisted of three sessions: reviewing interventions made into discrimination based on work and descent at different levels during the past decade; identifying opportunities and feasibilities for the next decade; and outlining effective future strategies. Each session invited panelists from among the participants to make a presentation from the perspective of their country and community.

At the end of the conference, a draft declaration was presented by the draft committee for discussion and approval. The declaration concludes with the following paragraph:

IMADR IN THE WORLD

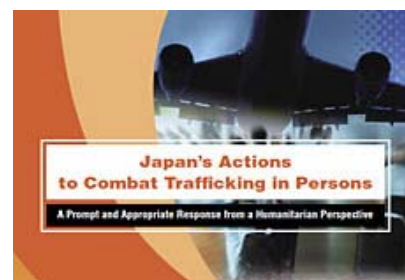


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IMADR AND ITS CONCERNS



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IMADR AT THE UN