



"Learning is Empowerment" Marking the Closing Year of the UN Literacy Decade

FEATURE STORY

On September 9, 2012, about 430 people gathered to mark the last year of the United Nations Literacy Decade (UNLD) in Osaka at an event entitled "From Kansai to the World! Learning is Empowerment." Participating were people studying literacy at evening junior high school classes and community literacy classes in the Osaka area.

The UN Literacy Decade will conclude at the end of 2012 and has aimed to reduce the world's illiterate population and realize gender equality in access to education. In Japan, many people need a place to learn how to read and write, and many have been left behind due to lack of access to such education. The September 9 gathering was organized with a desire for the UNLD to be extended for another decade, and not come to an end this year.

During the gathering, it was confirmed that literacy activities are not only a process of learning how to read and write, but also of liberating oneself as a human being, and regaining the

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IMADR Vice-President Mario Yutzis presents an overview of the Inter-American Human Rights Protection System and describes some of its current challenges.

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The 9th Asia-Europe People's Forum

The Asia-Europe People's Forum (AEPF) is an inter-regional network of progressive civil society and social movement organizations across Asia and Europe that brings together separate struggles to create more coherent and powerful actions towards social, economic, and ecological justice. IMADR President Nimalka Fernando was invited to join the South Asia Sub-regional Conference in August 2012, in preparation for the 9th AEPF.

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