



## My Visit to Brazilian Schools affected by the Earthquake

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FEATURE  
STORY

On March 31, I visited two Brazilian schools in Ibaraki Prefecture, which was affected by the Great Eastern Japan Earthquake. As one of the school headmasters is the head of the Council of Brazilian Schools in Japan, which organizes over half of Japan's Brazilian schools, I was able to grasp the general situation of Brazilian schools just after the earthquake.

With the enforcement of the 1990 Revised Immigration Law to cope with serious shortages in the labor force in the '80s, an increasing number of Japanese Brazilians have come to Japan. The official records show that they numbered approximately 310,000 in 2008. In the early stages, Brazilian children went to Japanese public schools (primary and junior high), which provide a free education. However, these schools did not have a structure in place to teach the Japanese language, or a policy to pay respect to the original culture and language of these children. Thus, Brazilian children found it very difficult to keep up with all the lessons that were taught in Japanese. They also faced pressure to assimilate, and bullying from other children. At the same time, a need emerged to give them an education in Portuguese, for when they returned to Brazil or to maintain communication among family members. To satisfy this emerging need, parents, school faculty members and some temporary help agencies started to set up, on their own initiative, Brazilian schools that teach in Portuguese in different parts of Japan. In some ten years, the number of these schools came to exceed 100 (as of summer 2008).

Meanwhile, the Japanese government does not recognize educational institutes that

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### Asian Rural Women's Coalition (ARWC) Calls for the Decommissioning of Fukushima NPP

An urgent call to decommission the Fukushima Nuclear Power Plant was adopted on March 30, 2011, during an international conference held by the Asian Rural Women's Coalition (ARWC) in Chennai, India, to mark the 100th anniversary of Women's Resistance.

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### International Day against Racial Discrimination Celebrated in Nepal

Feminist Dalit Organization (FEDO) celebrated the 46th International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, reminding everyone about caste discrimination in Nepal, especially against Dalit people. Being born in a Dalit community continues to mean a life of stigmatization, poverty and exclusion for millions in the country, despite Nepal being a signatory of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.

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