



## E-CONNECT NO.8

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## 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



### "NO" to Discrimination

The Civil Action Committee Calling for the Enactment of a Law to Prohibit Discrimination adopts an appeal to express concern over a new form of discrimination emerging against evacuees of the Fukushima Nuclear Power Plant.

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## IMADR AND ITS CONCERNS



### Japan Must Satisfy the Minimum Standards in Eliminating Human Trafficking

The US Department of State releases its annual report on trafficking in persons, ranking Japan as a country that fails to satisfy minimum standards required to eliminate trafficking in persons.

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## IMADR AT THE UN

With deep concern for our DWD communities, we came to the Conference in Geneva.

With single-minded purpose, we shared our achievements and limitations.

With admiration, we listened to each others' struggles and successes.

With anguish, we became aware of the task to be completed.

With keen interest, we took stock of the opportunities and challenges that lay before us.

With creative imagination, we designed the path to be trod by us in the future.

With a big vision before us, we want the fire of enthusiasm to be always aflame in our hearts.

With determination, we proceed to our places with a sense of purpose to "tear down barriers of caste" for the enjoyment of all rights and freedoms of the communities of our concern and commitment.



### **Spotlighting the widespread discrimination against Roma and victims of caste systems**

IMADR's Statement at the 17th Session of the Human Rights Council, where UN Special Rapporteur on Racism Githu Muigai presented a report focusing on discrimination against Roma in Europe and work and descent-based discrimination.

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### **PUBLICATIONS**



### **Peoples for Human Rights Vol. 11: The Struggle for Human Rights and Peace in Sri Lanka**

Though published in early 2009, right before the forced termination of the war in Sri Lanka, this book is still relevant to the current situation of the country. Many camps for internally displaced people (IDPs) remain, where people are facing a humanitarian crisis. Researchers and NGO activists contributed to the on-the-ground reports in this volume.

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