

Business Guide

—Seminars on Human Rights

●Human Rights College

This is a series of seminars mainly for residents in Kyoto City or Kyoto Prefecture, especially for those who are expected to work as a leader in various fields. In this course, participants can comprehensively learn human rights issues from lecturers including our researchers who play active role in various fields on human rights.

This series of seminars started in 1998, celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Contents: lectures, workshops and fieldworks

●Seminars on Historical Places and Sites concerning Human Rights

This is a series of seminars to analyze Kyoto from various angles of human rights through examining historical sites located in Kyoto. This series of seminars started in 2000, also as the seminars for training volunteer tour guides on human rights.

◆Training for volunteer tour guides on human rights

These seminars started for training volunteer tour guides on human rights who guide visitors around certain areas relating to human rights in 2000 started for the first time in Japan. A participant who has finished his/her course is granted certificate as a volunteer tour guide on human rights upon the satisfaction of all the conditions: attendance of seminars, submission of reports, review, interview and taking final training.

◆Introducing volunteer tour guides on human rights

Since 2001, the Institute started to introduce volunteer tour guides who are certificated or trained by the institute to residents mainly in Kyoto City or Kyoto Prefecture. The tour guides show sightseeing spots including distinguished temples, prestigious Japanese gardens and historical sites with explanation from human rights perspective.

◆Delivery Lectures “DEMAE KOZA” for Human Rights Learning

Since 2009, the Institute’s researchers have visited municipal or prefectural schools in Kyoto and given volunteer lectures regarding human rights to pupils or students.

◆Cooperation with Administrative Agencies

The institute cooperates with administrative agencies for engaging in enlightenment projects on human rights. In addition, the Institute helps to send lecturers to municipal or prefectural agencies.

Human Rights Library

Human Rights Library was established in 1994, the same year of the foundation of the Institute for the purpose of collection, preservation and dissemination of books concerning domestic or international human rights issues. The Library has extensive book collection and not only researchers but also residents in Kyoto City and Kyoto Prefecture can have access to the collection. The collection is composed of over 10 thousand books, and effort is also made to collect other useful materials such as newsletters issued by human rights groups across Japan. The collection ranges various books from academic books to picture books, novels and comics.

◇Opening Hours Monday-Friday 10:00-16:00 (closed 12:00-13:00)

◇Service reading, reference, copy (charged), loan (only for supporting members)

Outline of the Kyoto Human Rights Research Institute

- Name** : Kyoto Human Rights Research Institute
- Address** : 290-1, Tenjinyama-cho, Nakagyo-ku, Kyoto, 604-8221 JAPAN
- Establishment** : November 22, 1994 (authorized by Ministry of Education)
December 1, 1994 (start)
- Transition to Public Interest Incorporated** : April 1, 2012 (authorized by the Prime Minister)
- Reason for Establishment** : In commemoration of the 1200th anniversary of the establishment of Heian Kyo, the ancient capital of Kyoto, the Institute was established in order to conduct a research of universal human rights issues, to promote academic exchange with domestic and foreign research institutes in the field of human rights, and to contribute to promote understanding of these issues at home and abroad, benefiting from the long history, profound tradition and cultural accumulation of Kyoto.
- Main Projects** : - Research and study concerning human rights problems and the promotion of domestic and international academic exchange
- Collection and presentation of documents and publications concerning human rights
- The publication of books and organizing of lectures to disseminate the results of human rights research
- Other projects which are necessary to achieve the objectives of the Institute
- Access Guide** : The nearest stations are as follows:
○ Shijo Station (Kyoto Municipal Subway, Karasuma Line)
○ Karasuma Station (Hankyu Kyoto Line)
Approx. 300 meters from Exit 20 or Exit 24



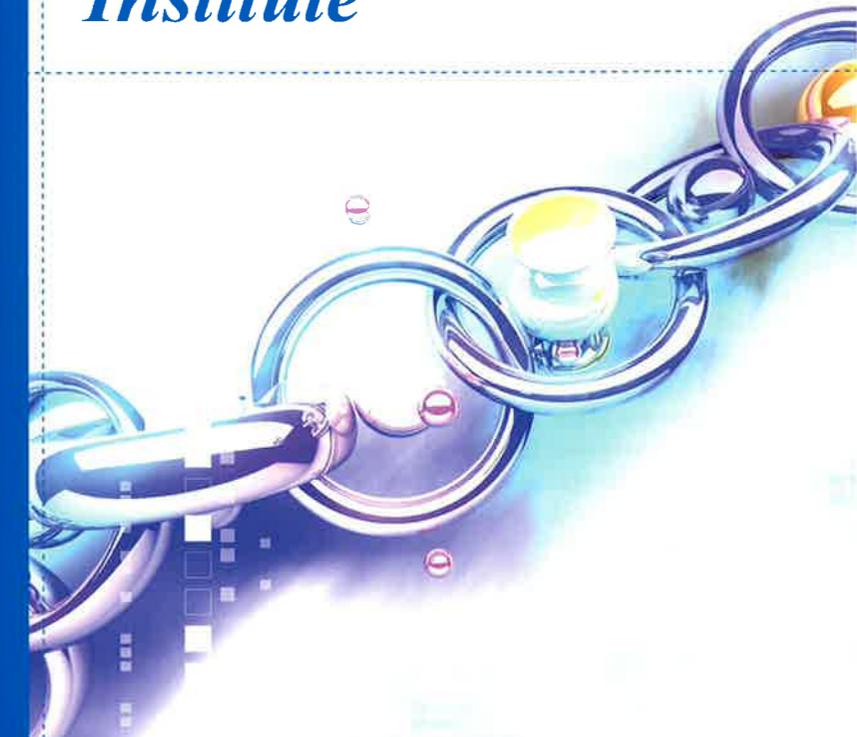
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: The symbol of the Kyoto Human Rights Research Institute
Our symbol is composed of the lines which mean warm heart and the Earth behind them to describe "All humans equally have human rights..."

Kyoto Human Rights Research Institute



Toward the Creation of the Human Rights-based Culture

The Kyoto Human Rights Research Institute was set up in 1994, as a research foundation authorized by the Japanese Ministry of Education. Currently, the Institute has approximately 100 researchers including full-time researchers, visiting researchers and part-time researchers, and achievements of the group as well as individual research projects are published in the Annual Report and Bulletin of Kyoto Human Rights Research Institute.

It studies on primary issues about human rights in the world through workshops held every month in each Research Division: Research Division on International Human Rights Protection System, Research Division on *DOWA* System, Research Division on Human Rights of Foreign Residents in Japan, Research Division on the Human Rights of Women and Research Division on the theory and methodology of Human Rights Education. The results of these research activities are reflected in the seminars and series of lectures of "Human Rights College" as well as seminars on Historical Places and Sites which concern Human Rights, and Seasonal Pamphlets "Globe". Fortunately the Institute is highly evaluated and its future activities attract attention of many Kyoto residents. The Institute has made effort for compilation and publication of various books including *Kyotojinkenrekishikiko (Essays on Historical Places in Kyoto from Human Rights Perspective)*, *Jinkenrekishinenpyo (Historical Chronology on Human Rights)*, *Sanjyo•Syomoji•Maimainokenkyu (Research on Sanjyo, Syomoji and Maimai)*. Moreover, the institute further engages in human rights enlightenment activities for students, employees and citizens through its researchers and volunteer tour guides.

The Kyoto Human Rights Research Institute was established in Kyoto in 1994 as part of the 1200th anniversary project for the construction of Heian Kyo, the ancient capital of Kyoto. While the creation of the human rights-based culture has exerted significant influence over the history and culture of Kyoto, public concern about human rights problem was regrettably quite insufficient in the 1100th anniversary project for the construction of Heian-Kyo. Taking over this remaining issue, it was considered essential to establish the Kyoto Human Rights Research Institute as part of the 1200th anniversary project for the construction of Heian Kyo. In consideration of our achievements through its research activities in two decades, the Kyoto Human Rights Research Institute now has a high reputation as an irreplaceable research organization in Asia from both domestic and international perspectives.

In addition, although there had been a facility problem since the foundation of the institute, the workplace environment was improved because of the realization of the relocation of the institute in October 2010, thanks to support from all concerned. Especially, on the first floor there is the Human Rights Library and we welcome visitors to access its rich book collection related to human rights.

The 21st century is referred to as the century for human rights. For the creation of such a century, everyone has to increase the understanding of human rights issues and acquires practical skills required to solve these issues. The Institute longs for further understanding and cooperation for its activities which will contribute to the creation of the century for human rights and the human rights-based culture, in order to benefit every person in the world.

THE FOUNDING CHARTER OF THE KYOTO HUMAN RIGHTS RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Today, just as the designation of the "Century of Human Rights" indicates, various problems concerning human rights, at both the domestic and the international levels, present themselves, and attract the attention of a wide range of people.

At the end of the Second World War, the United Nations Charter declared that one of the purposes of the United Nations is "to achieve international cooperation in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms". Various treaties and declarations concerning human rights such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenants on Human Rights, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women have been adopted. Furthermore, regional human rights protection systems have been established in Western Europe, America and Africa. "Respect for human rights" is also one of the most important principles of the Japanese Constitution. In fact today respect for human rights has become a global trend.

The Kyoto Human Rights Research Institute calls upon researchers on human rights in Japan, and when necessary, invites researchers from abroad to conduct research concerning human rights issues from a variety of international perspectives in order to develop a just and accurate understanding of these problems. This kind of human rights research institute does not exist outside of Europe and the Americas. Thus the Kyoto Human Rights Research Institute is the first research institute in Asia not to mention in Japan devoted exclusively to the study of human rights issues.

Kyoto, since the establishment of Heian Kyo, has assimilated various foreign cultures and developed its own culture which has a markedly international character. It also has a long history of concern for human rights. Given the background of Kyoto and looking toward the 21st century, it is indeed timely to establish the Human Rights Research Institute, as part of the commemorative projects of the 1200th anniversary of the establishment of Heian Kyo.

The policy of this Institute is to emphasize not only the works of individual researchers in the Institute, but also to gather scholars of human rights from all over Japan for the purpose of conducting a collective research. Therefore, researchers include not only full-time researchers, but also visiting researchers, as well as part-time researchers. Visiting researchers are those who, while belonging to other universities or research institutes, participate in various study projects of this Institute on semi-permanent basis. Part-time researchers are those who participate in a specific study project when necessary. Under this system, the Institute is open to all human rights researchers in Japan and plans to be the center of comprehensive joint research on human rights in Japan. In addition, the Institute will invite scholars from abroad to participate in its projects as need may arise.

The Kyoto Human Rights Research Institute is intended to become a center for research activities on human rights in Japan, and is expected to produce notable achievement in the study of this field.

October 1994

All of the Founders Present

Introduction of Each Research Division

① Research Division on International Human Rights Protection System

Since the human rights protection was included among the main purposes of the United Nations, many treaties and declarations concerning human rights have been adopted on both international and regional levels, which now form an important basis of international human rights law.

This research division is to study systematically how the international standard of human rights protection has been developed by the United Nations organizations as well by as various treaty bodies and implemented by state parties. It is also to analyze the latest status of international human rights law.

② Research Division on *DOWA* System

In the process of the historical development of Japanese society, some group of people were accorded economically, socially and culturally low rank and even in the contemporary society, descendants of these people often find serious violation of their fundamental human rights and experience various discrimination in occupation, marriage, education and housing. We define this social problem as *DOWA* problem or matter of *BURAKU* discrimination.

There have been *BURAKU* liberation activities since 1922, and to put this activities into shape *DOWA* administration as well as *DOWA* education has been introduced since 1946, when the article 14 of the Japanese Constitution provided for the equality under the law.

This research Division is to study these problems from historical and social perspectives.

* *DOWA* means social integration

③ Research Division on Human Rights of Foreign Residents in Japan

Today there are many foreign residents in Japan, for example "Korean residents in Japan" with the historical background of the colonial domination by Japan, as well as increasing number of foreign workers from various Asian countries. These people experience many problems in the Japanese society concerning life style, education and qualification for staying.

Examination of these problems will help to make clear the particularity of Japanese society.

Japan is often described as a racially homogeneous nation, but "island country Japan" has developed its culture by accepting different races and different cultures since time immemorial.

The main purpose of this research division is to study a historical development of acceptance by Japan of these races and cultures so as to find a way to the coexistence of multi-races.

④ Research Division on the Human Rights of Women

World Conference on Human Rights held under the auspices of the United Nations in June 1993 adopted the "Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action", which reaffirms that the human rights of women are an inalienable, integral and indivisible part of universal human rights, and urges the United Nations to encourage the goal of universal ratification by all states of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women by the year 2000.

This Research Division is to study how this Convention is implemented, as well as to examine history of the differentiation of roles based on gender and the actual condition of the equality of the sexes in the field of employment and public activities. It also inquires into the human rights, development and education of women in Asia.

⑤ Research Division on the Theory and the Methodology on Human Rights Education

As symbolized by "Decade for Human Rights Education" promoted by the United Nations, human rights education problems are recently studied more seriously in the international society.

Toward the empowerment of minorities and creation of human rights-based culture, human rights education has significantly developed in Japan especially through *DOWA* education. Human rights education is now extensively introduced not only in school education and social education, but also in employee education and the town planning. However, since research for systematization of human rights theories is not adequate developed in Japan, it is necessary to further learn international theories and practices to develop human rights education in Japan.

The main purpose of this research division is to construct theory and methodology on human rights education through interdisciplinary and practical approach, according to established research results and practical achievements in various fields such as: anti-discrimination education, multicultural education, intercultural education, education for international understanding, gender equality education, citizenship education, peace education, adult basic education, learning about disability rights.