

International Committee for October 17



INTERNATIONAL PRESS RELEASE

International Committee for October 17: Appointment of Kazuko Ito

February 4, Pierrelaye, France—We are pleased to announce the appointment of Ms. Kazuko Ito to the International Committee for October 17. The Committee was established in 2008 to promote and support the observance of the World Day for Overcoming Extreme Poverty, observed on October 17th each year, which is recognised as the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty by the United Nations.

“I am delighted to welcome Ms Kazuko Ito as a member of the Committee,” said Donald Lee, President of the International Committee. “Ms Ito’s commitment to human rights, particularly in the Asian region where many people are suffering from serious human rights abuses, has been impressive. Her work with Human Rights Now has highlighted human rights abuses and enabled victims of abuse to have their voices heard. Her vast experience, expertise and commitment to human rights will strengthen the Committee’s capacity to promote the spirit of October 17.”

Ms Kazuko Ito is a human rights lawyer based in Japan. She has been serving as the secretary general of Human Rights Now (HRN), a Tokyo based international human rights NGO. Human Rights Now has had special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the United Nations since its establishment in 2006 and works on the promotion and protection of human rights worldwide, with a special focus in Asia. As a practicing lawyer, she specializes in women’s and children’s rights, and death penalty issues. She serves as a member of UN Women’s Asia and Pacific Civil Society Advisory Group, and the gender equality committee of the Japan Federation of Bar Associations.

-end-

For more information, please contact:
Hugues de Courtivron, international.committee@oct17.org
++ 33680369466 <http://www.overcomingpoverty.org>

To know more

The International Committee for October 17 was established in 2008 with the following goals: to promote the 17 of October as International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, as recognised by the United Nations, uniting those who are striving together to end poverty; to promote the observance of the 17 of October in its original spirit; and, to promote opportunities where people from a variety of

backgrounds, including those whose lives are most difficult, can work together in the fight against extreme poverty as a violation of Human Rights.

(<http://overcomingpoverty.org/article/international-committee-for-october-17>)

The International Day for the Eradication of Poverty was first celebrated as the World Day for Overcoming Extreme Poverty at a major public rally held on the 17 of October 1987 in Paris, where one hundred thousand people from all backgrounds responded to a call from Father Joseph Wresinski, founder of ATD Fourth World, to gather at the Plaza of Liberties and Human Rights. On this day, a declaration was engraved on a Commemorative Stone proclaiming that extreme poverty is a violation of human rights and affirming the need for all people to unite to ensure that these rights are respected. (<http://overcomingpoverty.org/article/history-of-october-17>)

In 1992, the United Nations proclaimed the 17th of October as the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty. Since then, governments, local authorities, members of civil society and the private sector have recognized the importance of this International Day, which has become a key rallying point for a growing number of citizens and organizations from all backgrounds, in the fight to eradicate extreme poverty.

(<http://www.un-documents.net/a48r183.htm>)

Human Rights Now is an international human rights NGO based in Tokyo, Japan and its members comprise over 700 individuals and organizations, including lawyers, scholars, journalists, law firms, former UN official, retired Japanese Supreme Court Justices, and activists. Human Rights Now works for the promotion and protection of human rights for people in the world, with a special focus in Asia. (<http://hrn.or.jp/eng/>)