

**ILO Symposium to combat Trafficking
Learning from the European Experience -
Tokyo, 23 September 2003**

Main points of Pr. Mushakoji's comments (draft)

- I just came back from a meeting in Manila, a Conference on overseas “performing artists” in Japan. It discussed the issue of victims of trafficking from the Philippines. There was an agreement concluded in 1973 between the governments of Japan and the Philippines encouraging artists from the Philippines to come to Japan. The idea was to promote friendship between the Philippines and Japan. It resulted rather in a friendship between organized criminals of the two countries. The government is fully aware of the real nature of services performed by these “artists”, which is really prostitution, and therefore bears part of the responsibility by allowing this to happen.
- Within the National Police Agency (NPA), there is a change of mindset occurring, and the Consumer and Environment Bureau is getting increasingly aware of the issue of trafficking. It has also developed a pamphlet distributed to the police stations and explaining that there are, among illegal immigrants who are arrested, people who are victims of trafficking and who should not be treated as suspects. However within the NPA as a whole, the concern to arrest illegal immigration is still the priority.
- I would like to request from Dr. Konrad, EU-Asia cooperation through ASEM. The criminal networks sending women to Asia and to Europe are different. On the other hand, women transit from Europe to come to Japan. Therefore a closer cooperation between Europe and Asia is crucial to dismantle the criminal networks of traffickers.
- To the ILO I would like to request to develop the concept to social economic security, as in Japan Human Security is considered an important concept. There was a proposal submitted from the Philippines Government to the UN General Assembly, which is to establish a UN Year to combat Trafficking, and a small group (“IGO contact group to combat trafficking”) of NGOs and international organizations are supporting it. The IMADR was requested to make-up a proposal for this. It contains among others, ideas of ODA support from receiving countries to the sending countries, which is important to address the root causes of trafficking.
