

**ASIAN INDIGENOUS PEOPLES CAUCUS' RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE
UNITED NATIONS PERMANENT FORUM ON INDIGENOUS ISSUES
4TH SESSION, MAY 16- 27, 2005
UN HEAD QUARTERS, NEW YORK**

**Sukhendu Debbarma,
Chairperson
Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP)**

Dear Madam Chair, Let me congratulate you on being elected to Chair the 4TH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS PERMANENT FORUM ON INDIGENOUS ISSUES. We the IP of Asia are proud of your being elected as Chairperson for the Session.

Representatives of indigenous peoples organizations in Asia, together with you and Mr. Parshuram Tamang, members of the UNPFII from Asia successfully held an Asian IP preparatory Meeting to the 4th session of the UNPFII on February 25-27, 2005 in Shillong, India. There were 38 participants from 10 countries of Asia who actively participated in the two-day workshop. Among others, the participants held workshops and plenary discussions on the agenda items of the UNPFII 4th session and made specific recommendations. Allow me to submit the recommendations of the Asian Indigenous Caucus on Millennium Development Goal 2: Universal Primary Education.

1. We request the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (PFII) to reaffirm the right to education as provided in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ESCR) and the General Comments of the Committee on ECSR;
2. We endorse the recommendations of the 3rd session of the PFII on education, and urge the immediate implementation of these recommendations by governments, and UN agencies;
3. We also endorse the Conclusions and Recommendations of the Expert Seminar on Indigenous Peoples and Education organized by the OHCHR and UNESCO (E/EN.4/2005/88/Add.5) and request the PFII to endorse the same;
4. We also strongly endorse the following critical issues to be recommended by the Permanent Forum for immediate recognition and action by governments and concerned UN agencies:
 - a. The languages of the indigenous peoples must be recognised by the governments, and all indigenous children must be taught in their mother tongue/own language. Governments should allocate necessary resources for the development of the indigenous languages;
 - b. Indigenous peoples shall have the right to choose the script for their languages;

- c. Full and effective participation of indigenous peoples must be recognised in the development of policies and programmes for indigenous peoples' education, in particular the preparation of curriculum, textbooks and training of teachers;
- d. States must ensure that the histories, traditions, values and worldview of indigenous peoples are properly reflected in the curriculum;
- e. UNESCO and the governments must take immediate and necessary measures for protecting/safeguarding/preserving indigenous languages which are on the verge of extinction;
- f. Educational institutions should be declared as peace zones and the use of the educational institutions for military purposes be prohibited by law;
- g. Special attention be paid to the right to education of the children of vulnerable groups amongst indigenous peoples, in particular the internally displaced persons and refugees; and
- h. Measures should be taken to ensure that all children are not deprived of the right to an education, in particular through the recruitment as child labour or child soldiers.