Dr. Heisoo Shin
Independent Expert on the Committee on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights of ICESCR

April 16, 2012
12:00 pm - 1:20 pm
Room 254
William S. Richardson School of Law
University of Hawai‘i at Manoa

Light lunch will be served.

How to Use International Human Rights Mechanism: My Work and Thoughts

Dr. Heisoo Shin will present how to use intonation and human rights mechanism based on her own experience to raise the so-called “comfort women” issue in the United Nations and in other international institutions. She will also speak about her experience as an expert in CEDAW and CESCR.

Trained as a sociologist, Dr. Heisoo Shin from the Republic of Korea has been working for more than thirty years in the human rights movement, in particular the areas of women’s human rights. She is the president of Korea Women’s Hotline, a national organization with 25 branches working to combat domestic and other forms of violence against women. In the 90s, Dr. Shin led the legislative movements on sexual violence and domestic violence. Regionally and internationally, representing the Korean Council for the Women Drafted for Military Sexual Slavery by Japan, she raised the so-called ‘comfort women’ issue at the United Nations and other international fora, demanding legal reparation by the Japanese government.

Dr. Shin also served as an expert on the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women for 2001-2008, as well as a commissioner of the National Human Rights Commission in Korea for 2005-2008. Currently, she is the representative of the Korea Center for UN Human Rights Policy (KOCUN), a human rights organization, and she is in the process of establishing a new NGO, Movement Against Sexual Exploitation. And, she is an adjunct professor at the Graduate School of International Studies at Ewha Women’s University.