

APPENDIX I

BIOGRAPHY OF MASAJI ISHIKAWA

Masaji Ishikawa was born in 1947. His father was a Korean national residing in Japan. His mother was Japanese. In 1960, when he was thirteen years old, his family moved to the “promised land” of North Korea. In 1996, he made a desperate bid to escape from that hell on earth. (Taken from Masaji Ishikawa’s *A River In Darkness*)

APPENDIX II

SYNOPSIS OF *A RIVER IN DARKNESS*

The novel entitled *A River In Darkness* presents information that the main character in the novel who face racial discrimination. He wrote the novel to commemorate his struggle while in North Korea as an immigrant from Japan. At the same time he also wanted to describe life in the era of the world war II where the story was really real he experienced. Precisely when the big war almost happened in every major countries, including the war between Japan and North Korea.

Starting from the story, a child of a Japanese mother and a Korean father who wanted to find a new, more decent life in North Korea. But after being in North Korea, he and his family also faced racial discrimination conflicts. The conflict began when his father treated his mother very improperly, then the next conflict occurred to the main character while he was at school. He received bad treatment and harsh words, he considered different because he is a Japanese and a minority group in North Korea.

During his life in North Korea, he continued to receive racial discrimination from his friends, and the Korean community in his scope. As immigrants from Japan, he and other immigrants were seen as inferior in social class in North Korea. Life is not worth it, working hard but wages are not comparable, unable to pursue his dreams because the welding of social strata make him and other immigrants make plans to escape from North Korea to find a decent new life in Tiongkok.