

## **Kyoto Appeal**

### **To scientists and researchers in Japan**

November 28, 2004

On the occasion of the 15<sup>th</sup> JSA Comprehensive Scientific Study Convention

We, the members of the Japan Scientists' Association, held the 15<sup>th</sup> Comprehensive Scientific Study Convention under the main theme "Aiming at a Sustainable Civilization" to elucidate what obstruct sustainability and had an extensive discussion on the vision to remove the obstruction. The following five sessions were held: (1) Peace, (2) Environments, (3) Economics, (4) Science and Technology, and (5) Education and Culture.

In this convention it was made clear that the human beings and the Earth are in a hazardous and critical situation. Recognizing the situation we are in and reflecting on our own activities, we would like to call on each of Japanese scientists and researchers to give full play to his/her ability with self-consciousness of responsibility as a human being as well as a specialist of science.

(1) The war against Iraq, which the Bush Administration carried out as a preemptive attack on the pretext that Iraq possessed mass destruction weapons, has turned out to be a bottomless quagmire triggering retaliatory violence. We strongly oppose the United States' antidemocratic and self-righteous "preemptive strategy" against the rules human society has established for peace. We wish to warn the Japanese Government not to follow the U.S. military policy, dispatching Japanese troops of the Self-Defense Forces to Iraq.

We also contend that we should not only pay attention to the worldwide, conspicuously rising streams of antiwar and civic peace movements and multilateral cooperation like the EU and the ASEAN but also struggle to establish a peaceful order across borders to realize world peace, and furthermore to provide the international guarantee of abolition of nuclear weapons and prohibition of biological and chemical weapons of mass destruction.

The year 2005 is the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of World War II in which Japan experienced the first atomic bombing at Hiroshima and Nagasaki as a result of Japanese aggression in Asia and the foundation of the United Nations and also the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Russell-Einstein Manifesto. By facing up to the past bona fide and in a scientific manner, we must promote cooperation with scientists and citizens for the purpose of overcoming "bitter and negative legacies." With great respect for the Japanese Constitution that declares "non-possession of war potential" and "renunciation of war," we now make an appeal for the shift to the security policy based on the non-nuclear, peaceful, war-renouncing principles.

(2) The modern industrial civilization has a history of only two hundred years after the Industrial Revolution in England late in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Meanwhile, the Industrial Revolution developed larger manufacturing industries, making use of coal for fuel, which resulted in causing environmental pollution, making air, water, soil etc. dangerously dirty. After World War II a large scale of the exploitation of natural resources, massive consumption of fossil fuels, the dumping of a

large amount of industrial waste, etc. are causing not only pollution problems but new global problems such as acid precipitation, the depletion of ozone layer, and the global change of climate. In addition, now there are new environmental problems, such as radioactive contamination caused by nuclear weapons tests, atomic power plant accidents, heavy metal pollution by mercury, cadmium, etc., and chemical pollution by dioxin and endocrine disrupters. We have to note especially such an environmental destruction tends to have a more dangerous influence on the socially vulnerable, especially children and elderly people.

Capitalist production in the past 200-odd years has so deteriorated the environment as to threaten the survival of mankind. Human beings can not survive without solving environmental problems. It is very important for us to start taking the positive step to build a "sustainable civilization," in which production and consumption systems should be developed to reduce the load to environment, saving resources and energy, organizing recycling oriented society, making good use of renewable energy, such as the sun, wind, biomass. Commemorating the fact that this convention was held at Kyoto, where in 1997 Kyoto Protocol (COP3) was adopted, we decided to present a proposal to the Japanese Government.

(3) Production and circulation of commodities, services and information have quickly expanded on the basis of radical scientific technical innovation in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The total amount of them is regarded to have reached a level sufficient to fulfill the basic needs of all the people on the earth. Nevertheless, hundreds of millions of people in the developing countries cannot afford to bare necessities of life. Even in the advanced industrial countries, the disparity between the rich and the poor is growing. Social security is being sacrificed in the name of economic development and fierce global competition. Most people are suffering from the hopeless prospects of the future lives.

We had a discussion about the global transition of world economy; how activities of multinational corporations have been developed, how international and regional economy systems have been diversified and transformed, on a how large scale the transfer of capital, technology, and production bases has been made, and where they have led the Japanese economy.

Through the discussion we have gained the profound realization that we have to transform our society into a new social and economic system, in which we can achieve real affluence of human life more than material wealth, preserving the favorable global environment. We feel keenly the significance of liberating the economy from the "profit-first" and "efficiency-first" principle and laying foundation for majority of people especially young people to have a chance to get stable employment and develop their abilities. We hope we shall overcome the social segmentation caused by competition and build a society of warm friendship and cooperation.

(4) By the end of the third quarter of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, advanced capitalist countries reached the stage of the "affluent society." Is this society, however, a really sustainable one? We had a discussion about the role and actual problems of science and technology as a factor having brought about the "affluent society."

Controlling the destruction of the environment is not only a very political and economic problem but also an inevitable challenge to the science and technology of the 21<sup>st</sup> century that we have never met in the history of human beings.

We had discussions about the problems of flood control, genetically engineered products, information and communication technology, canned drinking water for sale, and cadmium-contaminated foods, etc. As to the appropriate development of technology, it is important to reconsider, for example, the food producing technology, the vulnerability to BSE and bird flu, the medical technology in the aging society and the decreasing birthrate and the life manipulation technology.

When we talk about what the science and technology should be in Japan, we can not overlook the fact that behind the recent Japanese policy after the Fundamental Law of Science and Technology there is an idea to regard the science and technology as a tool to seek profit on the market principles. We maintain that promoting the free development of science and technology, attaching importance to the fundamental and theoretical science, will help pave the way to realize a peaceful and affluent society.

(5) As we have witnessed the people of the advanced countries enjoying a high standard of living, wasting valuable natural resources and destroying the environment, we have to assume the responsibility to build a "sustainable society" for the coming generation. To realize a "sustainable society," we have to create a new concept of the "symbiosis" between human beings and nature, getting rid of the old life-style wasting natural resources and energy.

Considering about the education for future generations, the problems children are facing now are of particular importance, because unhealthy phenomena became obvious in school, the government is trying to enforce nationalistic undemocratic policy of education by revising the Fundamental Law of Education, and accelerating the crisis of children's development in school education. We can not avoid the responsibility of making clear the basic conditions and tasks necessary for children to grow up fully as human beings and make every effort to realize the best circumstances of education.

Ladies and gentlemen, we are now living at the most momentous period of human history. Let's take a first step toward the realization of the new world of a "sustainable civilization," where nature and human beings can coexist in abundance, all the people can live together without any kind of discrimination, violation of human rights, fear of famine and disease, above all any kind of wars. We appeal to all scientists and researchers for every possible cooperation and collaboration to achieve the purposes of human beings.