

THE BULLETIN OF JSA

THE JAPAN SCIENTISTS' ASSOCIATION

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No.114

December 25, 2009

“PEACE UNDER THE BLUE SKY” IN SHIZUOKA

On July 17th 2009, “Peace Under The Blue Sky” was held at Shizuoka University. It is a project organized by the students and the staff members of Shizuoka University as an opportunity to think about the importance of peace, and to encourage students who participate the “World Conference Against Atomic and Hydrogen Bomb.” Every year, lectures and movie presentations on the theme of peace are given, and alumni and people from the local community are also invited. The JSA Shizuoka Branch takes its major role in the committee constituted by the organizations on campus.

The speech entitled “Ceaseless fight against the Atomic bomb” was given by Mr. Kawamoto, who is a survivor of the Atomic bomb and the chairperson of the Shizuoka organization of Atomic-Bomb sufferers, and by Mr. Hohnen Matsuki, an activist who has been a supporter for the lawsuit seeking recognition as sufferers of atomic bomb-related diseases in Shizuoka. (The exhibition for “Atomic-Bomb and Human” and movie presentations on Atomic-Bomb” was also held.) After the President Obama’s disarmament speech in Prague, there has been a movement around the world towards a nuclear-free world. Our next project has been decided by questioning ourselves what we can do now, and knowing what is still going on after the attack of atomic bombs.

Mr. Kawamoto talked about his experiences of suffering from disastrous Atomic-bomb aftermath and discrimination he went through with details and images. Mr. Matsuki gave us a descriptive speech regarding the judicial action for recognition of people suffering from illnesses caused by radiation, and the difficulties of proceedings (especially deep-rooted discrimination against the victims of Atomic-bomb.) After their lectures, participants actively shared their opinions on atomic bombs. There were many voices of appreciation for the lectures heard from the floor.

ACTIVITIES OF RESEARCH COMMITTEES AND GROUPS

The JSA headquarters organizes a number of research committees and groups undertaken on a nationwide scale, which are encouraging the members across the country

1) 30TH SETOUCHI SYMPOSIUM

On August 22-23, 2009 the 30th Setouchi Symposium was held at Matsuyama University. The symposium this time was entitled as "For regeneration of area, society and environment around Seto Inland Sea". There were three reports about problems that Setouchi Symposium is tackling.

a) "Reclaim of Tomono-Ura area"

Tomono-Ura (Fukuyama City, Hiroshima Pref.) is a place that became the model of film "Ponyo on the Cliff by the Sea". Reclamation of Tomono-Ura area will destroy cultural properties and views. Though the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport does not permit continuation of the reclamation,

Hiroshima Prefecture and Fukuyama City do not abandon the reclaim plan.

b) "Construction of Kaminoseki nuclear power plant"

There is a natural sea shore and scarce worldwide shellfish and *Neophocaena phocaenoides* live around Kaminoseki area, Yamaguchi Prefecture. If the Kaminoseki nuclear power plant is constructed, the sea shore will be reclaimed and environment of this area will be destroyed by warm sewage of the power plant.

c) "Solitary islands problem".

There are many solitary islands in Seto Inland Sea. Those islands are diminishing in depopulation. At Iwaki Island (Kamijima Town, Ehime Pref.) residents who come from outside the island act for island redevelopment.

And there were two reports on influence that world recession has brought to industrial zone in Setouchi and purification of seabed by lugworm.

2) SYMPOSIUM ON ATOMIC POWER HELD IN NIIGATA

The research committee of energy and nuclear power problems and the executive committee held the 31st national symposium on atomic power at Niigata University on September 5-6, 2009 with about 60 participants. Dr. Kobayashi (Prof. Emeritus of Niigata Univ.) reviewed the purchase of land, the concealment of the fault investigation, data and accident of Kashiwazaki-Kariwa nuclear power plant during 40 years after the announcement of the construction plan. Dr. Suzuki (Niigata Univ.) reported the technical problems in long-term operation of a nuclear plant. He also pointed out that a course that educates and researches the nuclear power engineering is prerequisite to keep the safety of a nuclear plant, but no university in Niigata prefecture has such a course. Dr. Noguchi (Nihon Univ.) mentioned that although the development of a fast breed reactor has never advanced, the policy of the reprocessing of whole spent nuclear fuel has not been modified. He pointed out that the plutonium-thermal plan is useless and it is desirable to store the spent nuclear fuel without commercial reprocessing for prevention of nuclear proliferation.

Dr. Fukao (Shizuoka Univ., ret.) pointed out that since the fossil fuel and the uranium fuel will be depleted eventually, utilization of renewable energy is indispensable for existence of future mankind and development of the technique regarding utilization of solar energy and biomass is necessary in wide field. Dr. Tateishi (Niigata Univ.) reported that the abnormal vibration of No.5 reactor in Hamaoka Nuclear plant compared with other four reactors in the same plant at the earthquake of Suruga Bay in August cannot be explained by present knowledge of ground.

3) VARIOUS PROBLEMS OF REVISED "ORGAN TRANSPLANTATION LAW"

The research committee of bioethics held a session "Thinking of the system of medical care, nursing care and public welfare for the elderly" in the 17th Comprehensive Scientific Study Convention (2008) in cooperation with the research committee of health care and public welfare problems. The committee also held "The 6th human ethics study meeting" in August, where "Organ Transplantation Law" which was revised in July without detailed Congressional consideration was investigated. Various problems were raised by the committee as follows:

a) The revised law accepts brain death as human death in general. The previous law, however, defined brain death as death of organ donor only.

b) The revised law removes the age limit of donor and accepts brain death of children. There is a doubt whether the diagnosis of brain death is reliable, death is due to cruelty towards children and also parents can decide to accept organ donation from their own child.

c) It becomes possible that the family of the donor can accept donation without his/her consent except that the donor has clear will not to donate. Previously the written presentation of will was required.

d) The revised law accepts to give the highest priority of donation to the family or relatives. This may cause a deviation from the fairness of donation standards, as previous law prescribed that responsible physicians only had right to decide recipients.

- e) The cases which the organ transplantation from brain-death donors were carried out in the past must be investigated to clarify the point at issue.
- f) Whether the system for a medical emergency, in particular that for children is provided must be checked.
- g) The possibility that doctors responsible for organ transplant may express their will of donation using their own initiative must be considered.

There is whole stock of difficult problems we must deal with. The committee is to summarize the points at issue and to contribute to *Nihon-no-kagakusha* (Journal of Japanese Scientists). The committee also expects to bring these issues before the review committee of the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare, before actual enforcement of the revised law that will begin in July, 2010. The brain death and organ transplantation are important issues concerning to the philosophy of the life and death and that of the body to think of the human death and organs. The committee expects members who are interested in the bioethics to join and held a discussion.

DISTRICTS' AND BRANCHES' ACTIVITIES

The JSA consists of 47 branches which are grouped into 9 districts, and they are independently and/or cooperatively carrying out their activities in addition to the headquarters' ones

1) SHIGA BRANCH DISCUSSED YODOGAWA RIVER IMPROVEMENT

On July 18 in Otsu, Shiga Prefecture, the branch held an open lecture for citizen entitled "Water control in the Yodogawa river system and dam construction problem" by Dr. Ueno (deputy director, Society for the study of national land). The issue is now under discussion in neighboring prefectures. He explained first the definition of the fundamental concepts "basic high water discharge" and "designing high water discharge". In case of high water considered in basic flood control, the former denotes the flow in river at the standard spot without flood control such as dam, the latter the one after control by dam or so. Though in fact precisely defined by hydrograph indicating time series of water flow in river, those concepts were explained as intuitively recognizable. The flood control projects hitherto have driven the construction of dams basing on overestimated basic high water discharge. Since 1997 revision of river law changed the basic plan of construction so that river improvement has been planned basing on the appropriately estimated goal discharge for maintenance for coming two or three decades. Despite this change the Yodogawa river improvement plan still stands on overestimated basic high water discharge for river improvement and include a dam construction project, which never seen in other areas. Dr. Ueno claimed that the water shed area committee should consider the basic high water discharge to make a scientific discussion and investigate comprehensive flood control measurements with no use of dams.

2) JUNE 23 PEACE CONFERENCE IN OKINAWA

June 23 is the Memorial Day in Okinawa Prefecture to pray for the repose of 200,000 victims at the Battle of Okinawa and make a wish for peace. Every school then has held a special class on peace learning, and the Okinawa branch has organized a peace conference every year. The branch this year invited two speakers to give lectures on the system of examination of school text books and US nuclear strategy.

a) On a day in March 2007, when Mr. Kitajima (middle school teacher, Nago City), first speaker, was teacher at a little middle school in the northern Okinawa Island, the description that Japanese army at the Battle of Okinawa forced collective self-determination was deleted from school texts due to indication of the board of official textbook examination. Finding two standpoints to recognize self-determination during studying right of petition in the class of civics at Higashi middle school in Higashi Village, fourteen third grade pupils submitted the following petition to the Higashi Village Council: i) decision to rescind the indication of the board related to high school text, ii) submission of the decision to concerned organizations. The Higashi Village Council adopted the petition and thus pupils' petition exercised a great effect on subsequent movements of Okinawa people.

b) Second speaker Dr. Yagasaki (Ryukyu Univ., ret.), testifier about internal exposure at a class suit for recognition as a radiation casualty, clarified the political nature of the US nuclear strategy and the unscientific nature of DS86, a criterion the government of Japan uses to recognize as a radiation casualty:
a) The then radiation measurement had been conducted after rainfall by typhoon without no consideration that conditions were not preserved; b) The measurement had been taken account only of gamma ray, not of other radiation; c) No recognition of internal exposure; d) They ignored scientific results such as on fission products, and what exposure is brought on by those.

JSA^{NOW}
Briefings from organizers

THE COMMITTEE OF PROBLEMS OF ENGINEERS AND SCIENTISTS IN PRIVATE FIRMS

The committee organized a symposium entitled "Criticizing the actual state of science-technology in workplace and living" on October 18 at Bunkyo Civic Center, Tokyo. Two reports were delivered: Dr. Nishida (Osaka branch) "Karoshi (death from overwork) litigation of Dr. Miao (postdoctoral, Chinese researcher) and work environment of postdoctoral"; Dr. Osada (committee chair, Tokyo branch) "Movement to retract the unduly dismissal of Prof. Kinugawa".

KANSAI COMMITTEE OF PEACE PROBLEM

The committee organized the 16th lecture meeting entitled "70 years since the end of WWII – Rethinking the war responsibility" on October 18, Kyoto, where Prof. Kobayashi (Osaka Univ.) gave a lecture "What is meant by our recognizing Nankin (Japanese troops killed 200,000 people therein)", and Dr. Yasukawa (Emeritus Prof., Nagoya Univ.) "Japanese war responsibility and people's responsibility".

TOHOKU DISTRICT

The Tohoku district symposium was held on November 7 through 8 in Sendai City, Miyagi Prefecture under the title "University transfiguration after the privatization and its future".

[The first day]

- a) Prof. Shimizu (Tohoku Univ.): Keynote address
- b) Prof. Yamashita (Tohoku Univ.): "Change of administration, research and education at a large-scale university"
- c) Prof. Nishizaki (Iwate Univ.): "Change of administration, research and education at a small-scale university"

[The second day]

- d) Prof. Sano (Tohoku Bunka Univ.): Special report "On the demission of Dean of Faculty of Health and Welfare"
- e) Prof. Terai (Akita Univ.): "Observation of the move to coordinate three universities in the north Tohoku area"
- f) Prof. Tanaka (Miyagi Univ. of Education): "On the concept of reorganization and integration in educational faculties"
- g) Prof. Ito (Fukushima Univ.): "Coordination of local businesses, local government, and university"
- h) Prof. Watanabe (Yamagata Univ.): "Coordination of Yamagata University with the prefectural education board – Focusing on a pedagogic graduate school and a course for renewal of teachers' license"

KYUSHU DISTRICT

The 23rd Kyushu district symposium was held on November 28-29 at Science Faculty, Kumamoto University.

[The first day]

a) Prof. Yao (The International Univ. of Kagoshima): "Long-time ideals of world economy in the 21st century and issues of energy and environment"

b) Dr. Emori (National Institute for Environmental Studies): Keynote address "Global environment and global warming"

c) Prof. Sakai (Kagoshima Univ.), Prof. Yao, and Dr. Emori: Panel discussion

[The second day]

Reports on energy problem, development problem from Kumamoto, Kagoshima, and Okinawa branches, and reports on university problem from Fukuoka, Miyazaki, and Okinawa branches were released.

HOKKAIDO BRANCH

The branch held a civic symposium entitled "How do they use people in Hokkaido?" on October 30, where Prof. Kawamura (labor economy, Hokkai-Gakuen Univ.) gave a lecture concerning the work environment in Hokkaido.

YAMAGATA BRANCH

On October 31 at Tsuruoka Campus of Yamagata University the branch held a regular meeting, where they discussed the necessity to raise the self-efficiency rate of foods.

TOKYO BRANCH

1) The 73rd new peace colloquium was held on October 30 at Bunkyo Civic Center, Tokyo, where Prof. Kaneko (Rissho Univ.) delivered a lecture on the basic of the Japanese Constitution: the function of the Diet and election system.

2) Tama Hegel study group held a regular meeting on November 3 at Chuo University, where they studied a section of *Hegel's Great Logic study* (2nd ed.) written by S. Mita and attended the lectures of Prof. Yoneda (finance theory, Chuo Univ.) and Prof. Hirano (U.S. economy, Chuo Univ.).

3) The 15th Tokyo Science Symposium with the theme "Open up the peaceful age with reason and hope" was held on November 28-29 at Tama Campus, Chuo University. As a special address Prof. Noguchi (Nihon Univ.) talked about the peaceful use of atomic power and the nuclear proliferation. The branch organized 19 sessions and special sessions: a) experience exchange in Kanto district (ten branches included), and b) actual situations reported groups acting for higher education and their activity exchange. The organizing committee also held three events in conjunction with the symposium: c) go competition on November 3, d) concert for peace on November 19, and e) film showing "Tsuru Akira – what crossed his mind" on October 25.

KANAGAWA BRANCH

The 15th Article 9 Forum in Kanagawa was held on November 1 at Tsurumi University, where Dr. Konuma (physicist, Pugwash Conferences) delivered a lecture on the relation between nuclear elimination and the Japanese Constitution.

KYOTO BRANCH

1) The individual members group organized a little tour around the northern part of Lake Biwa, Shiga Prefecture on November 21. They observed Yamakado water source forest (selected as one of 100 water source forests in Japan by Forestry Agency) and Sugaura colony (known since Nara Period).

2) The research committee of bioethics held a regular meeting on November 30 at Kyoto University Hall, where Profs. Ueda (Kyoto Univ.) and Takehama (Ritsumeikan Univ.) reported on the emissions-reduction policy of greenhouse gas of Japan and Germany.

OSAKA BRANCH

1) On October 24 the 1st Science Café was held at Kurosaki Higashi mall, Osaka, where Dr. Nakamura

(branch secretary) delivered a lecture on water quality of tap water.

2) The study committee of philosophy held a regular meeting on October 26 at the Osaka branch office, where Prof. Sai (Hagoromo International Univ.) gave a lecture on Confucian ethic for business administration.

3) The Kansai-area's colloquium for scientific workers in private enterprises held a regular meeting on November 1 at the Osaka branch office, where Dr. Nakamura explained about heat pump.

4) The dialectic champuru (hotchpotch) study group held a study meeting on November 9 at the Osaka branch office, where two reports were given: Prof. Takei "Investigation of the current status in subprime panic, and Prof. Hiraishi (Ritsumeikan Univ.) "Philosophy of Pierre-Yves Bourdieu".

5) On November 14 the 2nd Science Café was held at Ten 5 Nakazaki mall, Osaka, where Prof. Inoue (Osaka Univ.) talked about Telomere (Nobel prize-winning research in medicine and chemistry).

6) The study group Contemporary Capitalism organized a regular meeting on November 26 where Prof. Iwahashi (Hannan Univ.) delivered a lecture "Nation and financial regulation".

7) On November 28 the 3rd Science Café was held at Ten 5 Nakazaki mall, Osaka, where Ms. Kameoka (Higashi-Sumiyoshi Health and Welfare Center) talked about individual preparation and national measurement of influenza.

8) The study group of "Capitalism" held a regular meeting on November 30 at the Osaka branch office, where participants read Sections 1, 2, and 4 of Chapter 1 under the instruction of Prof. Hiraishi (Ritsumeikan Univ.).

FUKUOKA BRANCH

Japan Institute of Local Government, Fukuoka and the branch organized the 29th Fukuoka Local Government Forum on November 8 with the title "Future of residents in the World, Japan, and Prefectures – Meaning of 2009 general election and coming issues". Lectures were given by Prof. Ishikawa (jurisprudence, Kurume Univ.) and Prof. Yamaga (Laboratory of Life and Economy, ret. Kobe Univ.) and a comment by Prof. Nishibori (fiscal science, Kyushu Intl. Univ.).

OKINAWA BRANCH

Autumn Study Conference "Thinking of the Do-Shu system (reconstitution of administrative units) and local government" was held by the branch on November 12 at Ryukyu University. Prof. Kameyama conducted an immediate report: "We won the lawsuit against the reclamation of Awase Mudflat", and Prof. Nakaji (Okinawa Univ.) gave an explanation on the meaning of the recommendation that Okinawa Do-Shu System Conference proposed and coming issues.

ARTICLES OF "JOURNAL OF JAPANESE SCIENTISTS"

The Journal of Japanese Scientists (JJS) or NIHON NO KAGAKUSHA (in Japanese) covering all the scientific fields is monthly published and distributed to all the members and other readers

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