

THE BULLETIN OF JSA

THE JAPAN SCIENTISTS' ASSOCIATION

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No.123

June 25, 2011

PETITION ASKING THE JAPANESE PARLIAMENT TO SOLVE UNIVERSITY CRISIS

On December 1, 2010, Japan Scientists' Association, Faculty and Staff Union of Japanese Universities, Japan Federation of Private University Teachers' and Employees' Unions, and teacher unions and student unions in Tokyo district collectively took action of petition to the Japanese Parliament to ask to break university crisis. 113 participants gathered from all over the country. Those unions, based on their union members' demands, have taken action as petition to the Diet against reduction of operational expenditure for national university and current expenditure for private university. Undergraduate and graduate students as well have bargained with the Japanese government so as to break the actual status that they have not dedicated themselves to learn and study owing to poor university policy of the Government and Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology.

This petition action was epoch-making in the sense that these organizations gathered for the purpose of solving the crisis of Japanese universities and academic system setting aside their lines. The association accompanied the executing committee absolutely advocating the action. JSA, as a democratic scientific and academic organization, took part in the joint action according to its action guideline to publicly clarify that the present crisis of Japanese academic system stems from the thought of the Government and economic circle to sieve with the logic of mutual competition and efficiency.

Considering words and responses of parliamentary members, for advance of the movement the following two points must be noted. (1) To give the public understanding that university gets into difficulties under a chorus of "financial crisis", specifically teachers and students do and that to solve the problem will be of benefit of the people. (2) To this end it needs to deepen a mutual understanding among ones involved the problem. In that sense JSA might play a significant role.

JFPU SYMPOSIUM ON "DIFFERENTIAL CORRECTION FOR EQUAL OPPORTUNITY OF EDUCATION"

On December 11, 2010 Japan Federation of Private University Teachers' and Employees' Union (JFPU) held a symposium: "The present situation and problem of the policy of private university" at Meiji University. The situation of the next fiscal year budget was reported and four panelists of Zengakuren, Japan Student Service Organization Union, JSA and JFPU mentioned distress of private University students, the cause and solution of the problem of higher education and "principle of equality in national and private university".

The government announced a policy of drastic reduction of the next fiscal year budget for higher education. Though the total budget in the next fiscal year increases as Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology requested, the content is that the amount of "special framework amount"

covers the significant reduced “requested amount”. By the competition policy based on neoliberalism in recent higher education has been on the brink of destruction. The policy makes various differentials and brings harm to the social weak intensively.

The largest victims in the higher education are undergraduate and graduate students and part-time lecturers. The problems are more intensified in private universities than in national universities, in the district than in the urban district, in smaller-scale universities than large-scale universities.

The anger is spreading in the citizen, because the Democratic Party of Japan (DPJ) which was expected with administration alternation has no idea and is not different from old administration. DPJ made “an appraisal” for “the consideration budget” to the US military. On the other hand it reduces the budget of welfare and education which the citizen desires earnestly with “business categorization” of cost efficiency.

Because of the becoming deep of social contradiction, a possibility of new solidarity which were not seen until recently has been born between the movement groups. Relief of the social weak which receives damage is urgent business and now is the time when the movements are gathered. For solving the higher education problems, it is important to stand on the viewpoint that education is human rights and to look straight actual problem not to be restricted by preconceived ideas like “national university central principle” and “deviation value “ etc. “Principle of equality” (between national and private universities) proposed by JFPU has important meaning.

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) The activities of the committee of Seto-Uchi

On January 1972 Seto-Uchi (Seto Inland) Symposium first took place, at the same time the Liaison Conference to Preserve Seto-Uchi Environments started. On the occasion of the second Seto-Uchi (January, 1973), the committee of Seto-Uchi was established. The former leads resident movement, the latter is a realized scientist movement organized by researchers involves in resident movement. The committee organized the 31st Seto-Uchi Symposium on March 19-20, 2011 in Tokushima Prefecture together with the liaison conference, which, with the topic "Regeneration, revitalization and leaders of regional society", is to discuss regional issues and scientists' role to settle them. How to be coordination between regional society and higher education institutions including university, and responsible role of scientists in the region as well are themes to expectedly be discussed. The committee is intending to tie the discussion on regeneration and revitalization of regional society to the bringing up of leaders. The 32nd Seto-Uchi Symposium will be held on the occasion of 19th Comprehensive Scientific Study Convention in Okayama, where problems Seto-Uchi confronts will be universalized in the overall discussion. The committee of Seto-Uchi is comprised of committee members belonging to related branches, ones belonging to the Liaison Conference, and executive office, having made planning of the symposia and been managing mainly for outcome evaluation. Through the coming symposium the committee intends to encourage branch activities, though to this end it must bring up persons responsible and reform its executive office.

2) ON THE OCCASION OF THE BEGINNING OF 4TH BASIC PLAN OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Taking a look back on proposals of "The Basic Plan of Science and Technology" for 16 years, affirmative alternatives are found to have been sought. Provided an alternative are not simply a utopian but based on scientific analysis of reality, it may have been obtained already by Marx in 19 century. Though the problem concerned is not in the level of a social change but of policy based on capitalism, it needs to view

such a direction of social change. By the way, as in the technology, alternative technology (AT1) has long been called for, which was developed as appropriate technology (AT2) applied mainly in developing countries. AT1 and AT2 had a property back to premodern, while the anthropocentric technology (AT3) has been proposed by EU as a counterproposal to system based on machine, which use advanced technology for human beings. AT3 goods like as pedelec and hybrid car already have been marketed.

Alternative of technology development policy needs to be a policy to on one hand propose looking over prospects of fundamental social change, on the other creatively a concrete technology. That will be done only by the solidarity of labor unions and civic movements, which JSA expectedly could lead.

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) REGULAR MEETING "THINKING OF UNIVERSITY GRANT CUT"

Deep cut of operation grant is thought to bring about a great change to university education and study. It provokes bewilderment and anxiety. Ishikawa branch thus held the above meeting on December 16, 2010. Next year's operation grant will be reduced by 10% (The operation grant of Kanazawa University will be reduced by 1400 million yens, while at present each staff is assured to get 400 million yens for basic study expenditures). University is obliged to appeal its crisis to society.

The budget spending cut is conducted over all national enterprises and financial collapses as in Greek 2009 and Ireland 2010 happened. Reports on the Japanese economy from issues of international finance, and a real status of the research and education budget of university and weighted research budget were offered. Prof. Kamiyo insisted that it is necessary to strengthen a suitable measure of the central bank and international cooperation and discussion so as to build an orderly and regulated global economical system, provided capitalistic economic system. Prof. Kiwata explained his analysis of conditions across the nation and in Kanazawa University, that is, strategic expenditure, collaboration, Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Research, outside funds, and the policy of university authorities.

2) Regional Science Forum

The first "Regional Science Forum" was held on January 22, 2011 at Tokyo. The general meeting of the Tokyo branch in 2010 decided that an organization like a regional group should be built to enhance the activity of increasing individual members. The field work has been conducted as an activity of individual members over the past 18 years by the organizers. The characteristics and form of the regional group will be discussed in the forum. The forum is held regularly on Saturday afternoon in odd months and it is conducted as a study meeting taking account of the members' interest. In the first forum Prof. Sudo (Hosei Univ.) reported on the broadcast media in the communication and broadcasting merging era. He said the following four points: 1) global trend promoting the changing over to digital terrestrial broadcasting and new broadcast laws in Japan, 2) characteristics and problems of the layered legal system found in the telecommunications law and the evidence, 3) background and problems of conversion from the telecommunications law to the new broadcast law, and 4) how to cope with the current situation. By his report the background and legal problems of the forcing of the changing over to digital terrestrial broadcasting were cleared. However discussion on the regional group was insufficient in this forum. It is a subject of next forum.

3) SYMPOSIUM ON GREAT HANSHIN-AWAJI EARTHQUAKE DISASTER

On Jan. 15, 2011, a symposium on Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake Disaster, which struck southern part of Hyogo Prefecture in 16 years ago, was held under the auspices of Hyogo Research Center for Quake Restoration. There were 130 participants from all over the country.

Mr. Deguchi (Secretary-general of Hyogo Research Center for Quake Restoration) gave a keynote report "What is leased public housing?". Leased public housing is a rental apartment which is leased by a private enterprise and Urban Renaissance Agency to a local government and was permitted by 1996 Revision of Public Housing Law. After the earthquake disaster, Hyogo Prefecture and Kobe City supplied 6792 houses, 9500 dwellers. Kobe city recently decided to ask tenants to move after 20-year lease term, beginning to ask intension from tenants and hold explanatory meetings. But, the law allows lease term to be extended over 20 years today, which Land, Infrastructure and Transportation Ministry, responsible departments of Hyogo and Kobe make certain of. The right of tenants is guaranteed in the Constitution, International code, Basic Act for Housing, and Housing Safety Net Act (2007). 2007 examination for owners in Kobe indicates over 70% wish continuation.

The research center interviewed tenants from September 2010 and started to distribute fliers to all tenants from December, most of them are elderly, difficult to move away from the regional community. December Takarazuka City decided to continue to lease, and Hyogo announced to buy up every wing. Kobe must listen to tenants' voices and reconsider its policy.

JSA^{NOW}
Briefings from organizers

HEADQUARTERS

- 1) The research committee of energy and nuclear power problems and Nuclear and Energy Related-Information Centre held a symposium "Massive earthquake and nuclear power plant – Meaning of the Fukushima nuclear power plant accident" on April 23 at Nihon University, Tokyo. Participants discussed why the accident extended severely up to melt down of core after the following lectures: A) Prof. Tateishi "What was the Tohoku earthquake?"; B) Dr. Fukao (Shizuoka Univ., ret.) "What happened at the Fukushima nuclear plant?"; C) Prof. Noguchi (Nihon Univ.) "Reality of pollution and explosion"; D) Dr. Tateno (Chuo Univ., ret.).
- 2) The research committee of foodstuff problems organized a regular study meeting on April 23 at Koto-ku, Tokyo. Dr. Teruoka (agricultural economics) talked about the future of Japanese food and agriculture with relation to TPP (Trans-Pacific Partnership).
- 3) The Liaison Conference for studying peace and democracy (JSA is one of its organization members) held 2011 symposium of Japanese education (1) on June 4 at Bunkyo-ku, Tokyo. The planning committee aimed to discuss the publicity of education and the role of teachers together with citizens. Prof. Sanuki (Hosei Univ.) raised a problem of conditions under which teachers could perform their duties.

TOHOKU DISTRICT

Fukushima and Miyagi branches and friendly organizations organized a symposium entitled "Truth of the Fukushima nuclear power plant accident and prospect for energy policy changeover" on May 14 at Tohoku University.

HOKURIKU DISTRICT

On April 16-17 at Toyama University the district held a symposium "Environment and youth – Hand the Biodiversity Year to the future". The first day, after Dr. Sokawa (Kyoto branch)'s keynote address "Transfer the esteeming of human life to the future", four lectures were delivered: A) Mar. Amano (Tonami Kainyo Club) "The significance of Kainyo (Forest of a great house) at the Tonami Plain"; B) Mr. Takahashi (NPO Kahoku-gata limnology institute) "The young people's use of lake environments"; C) Prof. Yokohata (engineering, Toyama Univ.) "My graduate student age – Wildlife zoology"; D) Prof. Nakamura (kanazawa Univ.) "The significance of village-vicinity hills and seas". On the second day three lectures were given: E) Ms. Sasaki (NPO wetland Nakaikemi) "Conservation of wetland Nakaikemi"; F) Prof. Shiga (Toyama

Univ.) "Paragenesis problem for young people"; G) Prof. Mori and Ms. Takehara (Fukui Univ.) "Trial of exploration network".

HOKKAIDO BRANCH

The Hokkaido University chapter held a lecture meeting on May 12 at Hokkaido University for new graduate students. Dr. Fukuchi (Emeritus Professor of Hokkaido Univ., representative branch secretary) talked about universities in crisis in relation to science and society.

AOMORI BRANCH

Hirosaki chapter emergently held a lecture meeting entitled "What happens at the Fukushima nuclear power plant? – Query anew safety of nuclear fuel and nuclear power plant" on April 18 at Hirosaki University, where Prof. Miyanaga made a report.

IWATE BRANCH

On April 16 at Iwate University the branch held a lecture meeting on nuclear power especially radioactivity and the Fukushima nuclear power plant inviting Prof. Nishizaki (nuclear physics).

TOCHIGI BRANCH

The branch emergently held a gathering "Thinking of the practice state of earthquake and nuclear power plant seeing the state of Tochigi and Fukushima" on May 9 at Utsunomiya University. Three reports were presented: A) Prof. Ito (seismology, Utsunomiya Univ.) "What was 2011 Tohoku great earthquake? – Main shock, tsunami, and seismic activity since then"; B) Prof. Makita (sociology, Fukushima Univ.) "Great earthquake disaster from the viewpoint of community development"; C) Prof. Shimizu (local finance, Fukushima Univ.) "The nuclear power plant disaster and local community".

TOKYO BRANCH

1) On May 8 Haduki-no-kai (August society) and New Japan Women's Association Toshima held a study meeting concerning nuclear power plant accident inviting Dr. Ikegami. Participants discussed in particular food and water contamination.

2) 2011 Spring School took place on May 15 at Okuma Memorial Tower, Waseda University. Three graduate students' reports were presented: A) Mr. Nishimura (Tokyo University of Agriculture and Technology) "Analysis of Leidenfrost phenomena according to thermography processing and polymeric additive effect"; B) Mr. Otsuki (Kansei Gakuin Univ.) "Mutual aid associations established during Meiji era"; C) Mr. Hara (Hitotsubashi Univ.) "Industrialization policy of Marcos administration in Philippine and class structure of rural community".

3) On May 15 at Koto-ku, Tokyo, the group of individual members organized a fieldwork "Exploring the relocation area of Tsukiji fish market", and thereafter participants enjoyed mutual exchange.

4) A regular meeting of Machida Science Forum took place on May 21 to discuss the East Japan Great Earthquake disaster, lack of disclosure of information on the disaster by TEPCO and Japanese government, and aid to disaster victims.

5) The second earth science forum was held on May 22 at Komazawa University. Dr. Takizawa delivered a lecture "TPP participation, Japanese agriculture, and local community".

ISHIKAWA BRANCH

1) The branch emergently held a civic lecture on the Fukushima nuclear power plant accident on April 12, inviting Prof. Fukai (nuclear reactor physics, Kyoto branch) to furnish information of the accident.

2) Emergent civic lecture meeting took place on May 7 and 8 in Kanazawa. Prof. Noguchi (radiation protection studies, Nihon Univ.) talked about how to treat the Fukushima nuclear power plant accident".

FUKUI BRANCH

- 1) On April 11 at Fukui University the branch held a civic lecture "What do we learn from the accident of the Fukushima nuclear power plant?" Three reports were offered: A) Dr. Yamamoto (Fukui branch) "The progress and problems of the Fukushima nuclear power plant disaster"; B) Dr. Kodama (Ishikawa branch) "Useless disaster prevention planning for nuclear power plant accident"; C) Dr. Iida (Ishikawa branch) "resident and scientists movements vs. nuclear power promoting policy".
- 2) On May 14 at Fukui University the branch held a civic lecture "Japanese policy of nurse and care workers – Foreign labor problems".

SHIGA BRANCH

On May 21 the branch held a study meeting on national land development. Dr. Miyamoto (ex President of Shiga Univ.) gave a lecture "National land development and East Japanese disaster problem – Historical failure and coming issues".

KYOTO BRANCH

- 1) JJS (Journal of Japanese Scientists) club held a meeting on April 26 at Kyoto University to study the feature "Financial crisis and the tax system of Japan".
- 2) On April 27 the study group of higher education held a regular meeting, where Mr. Yamasita (municipal personnel) reported on the employment assist through cooperation of administration and regional activity.
- 3) On April 30 the study group of judicial system held a meeting, where Prof. Ogiya (Ryukoku Univ.) explained "What is the supreme court?".
- 4) The Ryukoku University chapter held a study meeting on May 17. Participants listened to Dr. Tsujita (Ryukoku Univ., ret.)'s lecture "For thinking of nuclear power plant".
- 5) The Ryukoku University chapter held a study meeting on May 24. Participants listen to Dr. Fukao (Shizuoka Univ., ret.)'s lecture "Solution of energy question without nuclear power".

OSAKA BRANCH

- 1) The study group of "Capitalism" held a regular meeting on April 11 at the branch office. Mr. Matsuoka explained chapters 11 "cooperation" and 12 "manufacture".
- 2) On April 17 the Kansai-area's colloquium for scientific workers in private enterprises took place at the branch office inviting Ms. Aburaya, who introduced peace movement in Osaka.
- 3) The 28th Kita-Temma science café took place on April 23 to study the fundamental knowledge of radioactivity.
- 4) The 22nd Kansai study meeting of peace question was held on April 24 at Wing Kyoto, Kyoto. Two lectures concerning wartime medical science were delivered: A) Prof. Tsuchiya (Osaka City Univ.) "Japanese medical crime during the 15-year war"; B) Dr. Yoshinaka (physician) "Issues of modern medical practice – Lesson learned from medical practice society supported war".
- 5) On April 25 Osaka University chapter held a study meeting "drag induced suffering and society" inviting Mr. Sumiyoshi (defense team of Iressa lawsuit).
- 6) The study group Contemporary Capitalism held a regular meeting on April 28 at the branch office inviting Prof. Iwahashi (Hannan Univ.) who gave a lecture on East Japan Great Earthquake and Japanese capitalism.
- 7) On May 8 the Kansai-area's colloquium for scientific workers in private enterprises took place at the branch office to discuss earthquake disaster and nuclear power plant accident.
- 8) On May 16 Osaka City University chapter held a study meeting on the idea of Osaka principal city with the report of Prof. Tagichi (Osaka City Univ.).
- 9) The 38th Osaka Comprehensive Scientific Study Convention took place on May 21 at Osaka City University. The following four speakers presented their study results and opinions: Prof. Kikuchi (Osaka Univ.), Mr. Nagano (antipollution activist), Prof. Nakase (Osaka City Univ.), and Mr. Hiraishi (grad student,

Ritsumeikan Univ.).

10) On May 24 the branch organized a symposium for appealing retreat from the safety myth to advocate nuclear power plant and conversion to natural energy, where Dr. Iwamoto (nuclear physicist) and Ms. Fujinaga (NGO activist) delivered a lecture.

11) The study group Contemporary Capitalism held a regular meeting on May 26 at the branch office, where Prof. Suzuki (Momoyama Gakuin Univ.) explained his theory on contemporary monopoly system.

12) On May 28 at Nakazaki mall, Osaka, the 29 Kita-Temma science café was held under the theme "Oshio Heihachiro and his disciples". Mr. Oshio was known as idealistic confusion philosopher who led a rebellion in Osaka in 1837.

13) On June 5 at the branch office Kansai group of technicians and researchers held a regular meeting, which was to discuss concerning the book "*Nuclear power plant and the future of Japan*" after the report of Mr. Kawakami.

HYOGO BRANCH

1) The branch held a symposium "Thinking of TPP" on April 16 in Kobe., where Prof. Ono (Kobe Univ.) and Mr. Yanagisawa (Hyogo Food and Health Conference) gave a lecture.

2) On June 4 at Rokkodo, Kobe, the branch held a memorial forum for the branch general assembly. Two lectures were delivered: A) Prof. Nakagawa (physicist, Kobe Univ.) "Figuring out the Fukushima nuclear power plant accident"; B) Prof. Iwasaki (sociology, Emeritus Prof., Kobe Univ.) "Disaster and economic crisis – The possibility of Japanese recovery through regeneracy".

OKAYAMA BRANCH

On May 21 in Kurashiki City the branch and its friendly groups emergently organized a civic lecture, where Prof. Noguchi delivered a lecture "Nuclear power plant and energy questions".

KAGOSHIMA BRANCH

On April 16 at Kagoshima University the branch organized an open lecture meeting, where Prof. Sato (Kagoshima Univ.) delivered a lecture on the lesson of Minamata (disease caused by mercury pollution) and Dr. Harada (physician) gave a lecture from his experience of various diseases caused by environmental pollution.

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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