

# THE BULLETIN OF JSA

## THE JAPAN SCIENTISTS' ASSOCIATION

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### ***WOMEN SCIENTISTS AND TECHNICIANS GATHER IN KYOTO***

On October 16 at Kinugasa Campus of Ritsumeikan University, Kyoto, JSA headquarters and the committee of women scientists' problems held 13<sup>th</sup> National Symposium for Women Scientists and Technicians with the title "Thinking of women scientists' tomorrow". The symposium was started to organize accepting request and suggestions of committees that had assembled session "How far has gender equality been promoted?" the committee arranged on the occasion of 18<sup>th</sup> Comprehensive Scientific Study Convention held in Sendai. The executive committee has frequently discussed so as to encourage women scientists and technicians by exchanging their experiences with senior researchers in the symposium.

The committee chair Dr. Bando (physicist, Emeritus Prof., Aichi Univ.) delivered an address about her experiences such as movement of founding child-care center at Kyoto University and rising in position for women researchers basing on scientific data.

A commemorative lecture entitled "Women's role and life changed with scientific development in 20<sup>th</sup> century" was delivered by Dr. Uno (Louis-Pasteur Institute). She stressed that for recent 100 years in human history women's life cycle and way of life have been drastically changed owing to development and dissemination of science-technology, in the relation of both genders functional differences have been gradually overcome, and that the assistance program considering women researchers' lifestyle (for instance, child care, entrance exam and early adolescence of child, climacteric, and nursing care).

Subsequently participants attended at the following four sessions: (a) Social contribution of women scientists and technicians; (b) Getting a position for young women scientists and technicians and network; (c) Family – marriage and child rearing; (d) Family – caring.

In the general discussion participants agreed with the opinion that in spite of harsh environment around women researchers and especially young researchers, we need to share understanding of that status, appeal to society and solidarize.

### ***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 JSA ad hoc committee of the Constitution held the last symposium

On November 5, 2011 at Meiji University the committee held the last symposium inviting three speakers. (a) Dr. Karakama (Senshu Univ., ret.) "Today's poverty and social security in the wake of March 11 disasters": He stressed that the task of social security and public policy must primarily be housing and it is important for the disaster victims and district to secure income indemnity as well as habitats, and proposed the establishment of two-year unemployment benefit for every disaster district, a grant for students in

disaster district, and to make the four disaster-affected prefectures as a Japanese model of welfare state. A source of revenue could be acquired by levying 10% tax on big companies' internal reserve, about ¥250 trillion, as a special tax on internal reserve. It is also an emergent task to improve Japanese economics, he said.

(b) Prof. Asukawa (Hosei Univ.) "Japan-US security alliance and military base problems in Okinawa – the problems of alliance deepening, Futenma airfield, and the revision of the Status of Forces Agreement":

Japanese present defense policy works with deterrence plan including islands defense as well as JASB (Joint AirSea Battle) mentioned in QDR (February, 2010, US Quadrennial Defense Review), and TGT (Tokyo, Guam, Taiwan) triangle strategy was hammered out to mainly maintain constant surveillance on Chinese navy. That place is not only the most important sea lane for cargo shipment but the sea area strongly related with US Army reformation. There is a tension between Japan and China. Okinawa is thought to occupy a geopolitical position, which can not be accepted considering US Army's operations. Professor thinks the Japan-US Status-of-Forces Agreement does not form the foundation of regulation so much as Iraq-US.

(c) Prof. Tadano (Hitotsubashi Univ.) "Political lead and the role of the Diet": He pointed out that although the Democratic Party government advocates political lead, prime minister and the cabinet lead indeed, politicians can not lead the Diet because Democratic Party lacks a major in the Upper House. Some image English model of bicameral system, which yet contradicts tough existence of the Upper House, in Japan there appears a Diet cabinet government rather than a parliamentary cabinet government. Some proposed the correction of disproportioned Diet seats, which yet possibly leads to disregard of regional voices according to the neo-liberalism.

## 2) THE RESEARCH COMMITTEE OF HEALTH CARE AND WELFARE PROBLEM CRITICIZES THE SENTENCE OF TOKYO HIGH COURT

In the Iressa drug-induced disease cases brought to Osaka and Tokyo district courts in 2004, company's liability was certified in February, 2011, and the liabilities of company and the state in March. The plaintiff, causalities won both cases. One of points of issue was whether defenders should describe or make describe the possibility of interstitial pneumonia, then known to defendants, in the warning column of the attached document. The defendants asserted no liability because they had written it in the column of severe side effects. Tokyo district court allowedly rejected this assertion.

Tokyo high court, however, on November 15, 2011 overturned the original verdict, making a decision against plaintiff's claim. The point was that the court can not say the description had an imperfection since the causal connection could not be certified at the time of drafting attached documents.

The committee investigated this sentence on December 17, 2011, concluded it unconstitutional, and issued a statement that denounces the court's decision for the following points: (a) denial of judicial precedent, (b) denial of precautionary principle, (c) allowance to violate the gist for description of usage note based on Medicine Act.

The committee is concerned that allowing such a court decision would cause causalities to be defeated at trials relative to Product Liability Law and have an adverse effect on the trial of Fukushima accident.

### ***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) SYMPOSIUM "HOW DO WE FACE RADIOACTIVE CONTAMINATION? – PURSUING FOOD SAFETY" IN FUKUSHIMA AND MIYAGI

The Fukushima and Miyagi branches held a series of two symposiums on November 25 (Fukushima City) and 26 (Sendai City). In particular, the second symposium at Sendai City War Reconstruction Memorial

Hall was filled to capacity. Four lecturers were invited Prof, Nishimura made a general comment on food safety, Prof. Katayama on contamination of marine products, Prof. Watabe on countermeasures for internal radiation exposure and Prof. Wada on actual means of switching to renewable energy. These lectures were followed by enthusiastic discussions.

One argument was that what the definition of the actual state after March 11 to understand totally. One answer might be “nuclear plant disaster by earthquake” Another one was focused on decontamination. In Fukushima Prefecture, the resolution “the elimination of all ten units of Fukushima No.1 and 2 nuclear power plants” was moved at the prefectural assembly, and the Governor was going to confirm it. In Miyagi Prefecture, the Governor neglected his duties of the decontamination with the intention of pretending to be “normal”. Finally he said now that he won’t measure the contamination because of his own reason of hard works caused by Tsunami and also that he forbade stirring up because of pretending to avoid the rumor damage.

On the other hand, the concerted action by the residents was noticeable. The points of their arguments were as follows.

- (a) Do monitoring at every house and learn about the measuring instrument to build up the base and development of the action
- (b) Ask scientists and specialists to analyze the data obtained by the monitoring and receive information to establish the exchange of information.
- (c) Demand the actual decontamination to the local government based on the above information. The effectiveness of these procedures had been proved in Fukushima

Other topics concerning the present evaluation of science and technology and the task of development such as the accuracy of whole body counter and a urine test were also discussed.

## 2) TOHOKU DISTRICT SYMPOSIUM "RENEWABLE ENERGY AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT" HELD

On October 22 in Aomori City the district held the above symposium, where 30 participants attended to discuss second-generation energy resources exploiting regional characteristics. In his report "The possibility and problem of regional revitalization using woody biomass" Prof. Ito (Iwate branch) explained that the market of woody biomass as heat reservoir is large and we can expect demand in the area within 30km around Aomori Prefecture. In a report "Grapple to establish environment-oriented society starting at cultivating rape blossom" Prof. Watanabe (Akita branch) presented, he talked that producing colza oil at oil mill Rape Blossom Network runs jointly with farms contributes to village revitalization. In his report "To reconstruct farm lands contaminated by sea water in the wake of the Great Earthquake and to build society without nuclear power plants and with low carbon", Prof. Kusano (Miyagi branch) introduced an idea of big-scale solar energy generation operating at Yazawa-Ura drained land in Soma district, Fukushima Prefecture. That is to utilize 350ha paddy field flooded by Tsunami for solar energy generation. He also explained the technology of solar energy generation developed in the exclusive economic zone in the vicinity of Minami Torishima. Prof. Miyanaga (Aomori branch) delivered a lecture "Shift from nuclear myth to renewable energy", where he stressed in the case of considering new energy it is significant to stand on the viewpoint of eco-economy (ecology-focused economy), and reported the recent status of wind and solar energy generations, and a future plan (Sahara solar breeder project).

## 3) CHUGOKU DISTRICT SYMPOSIUM "OPEN THE POST-FUKUSHIMA WORLD" HELD

On Oct. 8, 2011, a symposium "Open the post-Fukushima world – meditating on nuclear power plant problem" was held in Tottori prefecture in the Chugoku District, which is the western part of Honshu. There were 4 reports as followed.

- (a) "The truth of the nuclear power generation and the nuclear power plant disaster" (Prof. Yoshimura, Yamaguchi Univ. of Human Welfare and Culture)
- (b) "Danger of radiation exposure and its effects on the human body" (Prof. Aoyama, Okayama Univ.)

(c) "Why were many nuclear power plants constructed in the atom-bombed nation" (Prof. Ichikawa, Hiroshima Univ.)

(d) "It is possible to develop economics in the process of abolishing nuclear power plant and carbon dioxide reduction" (Prof. Uezono, Shimane Univ.)

After the talks, participants discussed the following problems; Disaster of Fukushima Daiichi, energy policy, affection of radiation for human body, etc. Participants particularly concerned themselves with the objective assessment of the nuclear power plants for economy and carbon dioxide reduction, the pride of Japan as scientific and technological nation.

*JSA<sup>NOW</sup>*  
*Briefings from organizers*

#### HEADQUARTERS

1) On March 3 at Bunkyo Kumin Center, Tokyo a symposium "Disasters caused by the Great East Japan Earthquake and nuclear power plants accidents and our future" was held. (a) Prof. Okamoto "A year since the accidents"; (b) Dr. Sawada "The recent research on internal exposure"; (c) "Recovery and reconstruction issues"; (d) Prof. Yamazaki "Development of Japan-U.S. alliance in nuclear energy"; (e) Speech of Dr. Flugweil (committee of radiation protection, Germany).

2) The conference of pollution and global environment issues and unions of workers and farmers held 2<sup>nd</sup> symposium for establishment of energy policy independent of nuclear power generation on March 12 at National Confederation Trade Unions Hall, where Dr. Wada (president, Japan Ass. Env. Studies) delivered a lecture on renewable energy society.

3) On March 31 the committee of problems of engineers and scientists in private firms held a symposium "Criticism of the present status of science-technology at life and work sites". Three reports were presented: (a) Mr. Kitaguchi "Recent trials and issues on suicide induced by overwork of software workers"; (b) Dr. Osada "Calling upon a great amount of wisdoms to abolish nuclear power plant in view of social responsibility of scientists"; (c) Mr. Kushimoto "Report on the actual state of Osaka City".

#### KINKI DISTRICT

The district held a symposium entitled "Wakasa nuclear power plants – disaster prevention in Kinki (1)" on March 18 at Campus Plaza Kyoto. Two reports were delivered: (a) Prof. Yamamoto (Fukui branch) "Hazardous nature of Wakasa nuclear power plants"; (b) Prof. Matsumura (Kyoto branch) "Japan, earthquake prone archipelago".

#### AOMORI BRANCH

Hachinohe chapter held the first regular meeting on March 20, where they discussed the issue of faults around nuclear power facilities at Shimokita peninsula.

#### TOKYO BRANCH

1) On March 25 at University Electro-Communications the 24<sup>th</sup> Chofu science forum was held. Dr. Sagawa (branch member) talked about the possibility of balance between breaking with nuclear power generations and control of the greenhouse gasses.

2) The 99<sup>th</sup> new peace colloquium was held on March 30 at Bunkyo Kumin Center, Tokyo, where Prof. Kaneko (Rissho Univ.) gave a lecture "The melting of conservative political party (4)".

3) On April 7 the science committee of the branch held a mini-symposium, in which two reports presented: (a) Prof. Hamada (Tokyo Inst. Tech.) "The issue of corruption of the JAXA (Japan aerospace exploration agency) law and movement against it"; (b) Prof. Ishizuki (National Astronomical Observatory of Japan) "The flow of corruption of the JAXA law".

4) The 100<sup>th</sup> new peace colloquium was held on April 27 at Bunkyo Kumin Center, Tokyo, where Prof. Kaneko (Rissho Univ.) gave a lecture "Ideal of humanity in the 21<sup>st</sup> century and the Constitution".

#### SHIGA BRANCH

The branch submitted an appeal, dated March 17, for a review of the local disaster preparedness plan in Shiga (ver. nuclear disaster measure) to the Shiga prefectural governor.

#### KYOTO BRANCH

1) On March 4 the branch held a gathering to listen to a last lecture of Prof. Onishi for the branch members. The title was "Criticism against modern economics' view for nuclear power plants".

2) Symposium "3.10 Goodbye Nuclear Power Plants in Kyoto" was organized by several democratic groups including JSA Kyoto branch on March 10 at Maruyama Odeum. After the rally to Kyoto City government, participants listened to a lecture by Prof. Koide (Kyoto Univ. Research Reactor Inst.).

3) *Kyoto appeal for zero nuclear power plants* held a civic lecture on April 13 at Ritsumeikan University, where lectured Prof. Anzai (honorary director, Kyoto Museum for World Peace), Prof. Wada (president, . Japan Ass. Env. Studies), and Prof. Tanigawa (Kyoto Museum for World Peace, Ritsumeikan Univ.).

#### OSAKA BRANCH

1) On March 4 the Kansai-area's colloquium for scientific workers in private enterprises held a regular meeting, where Dr. Nakamura talked about the regeneration of forests and forestry.

2) The study group of "The capital" held a regular meeting on March 19 at the branch office to read Part I Ch. 15 and 16 under the direction of Mr. Hiraishi.

3) The study committee of philosophy held a regular meeting on March 28, where Prof. Makino (Hannan Univ.) made a talk "Rereading Marx at the Marx boom".

4) The study group Contemporary Capitalism held a regular meeting on March 29 at the branch office. Prof. Matusda delivered a lecture on art in capitalistic society..

5) On March 31 at Nakazakicho mall, Osaka, the branch held the 43rd Kitatenma Science Café, where science teachers instructed experiments for children.

6) On April 16 at the branch office the study group of "The capital" held a regular meeting, where Dr. Hiraishi and Dr. Matsuoka explained Part 1, Ch.16-17.

7) On April 21 at Nakazakicho mall, Osaka, the branch held the 44<sup>th</sup> Kitatenma Science Café, where Prof. Yasuki (Osaka Intl. Univ.) made a talk "Science at the table – From ecology to economy of freshwater clam".

8) Open debate on the Iressa case on drag-induced disease was held at Osaka University on April 23, where Mr. Sumita (attorney, defense council) reported the practice situation on the issue.

#### OKAYAMA BRANCH

The Yomoyama (small talk) group held a regular meeting on April 16 at Okayama University. Prof. Nakatomi (Okayama Univ. of Sci.) lectured concerning the constitutional issue of the basic ordinance of education adopted at Osaka Prefectural Assembly.

#### FUKUOKA BRANCH

On March 18 at the satellite office of Kurume University the study group of environment held a study meeting, where Prof. Hamada (Kyushu Univ.) gave a lecture on rail fatigue problem.

**ARTICLES OF "JOURNAL OF JAPANESE SCIENTISTS"**

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Vol.47 No.3 (2012)

Title page message

Okabayashi, S.: The role of scientist movements required more in the civil society after 3.11

Special feature: Recovery and reconstruction from the Great East Japan Earthquake: The interim report of the JSA special committee on the Great East Japan Earthquake

Itoh, H.: Introduction

Okamoto, Y.: Critical analysis of the severe accident in the Fukushima-Daiichi Nuclear Power Station: Its causes, transition of the accident, and "policies on the conclusion of the accident"

Kitamura, H.: Compensation for damages caused by nuclear power station

Tsunashima, F.: Aiming at the recovery and reconstruction of the disaster are for the victims: Agriculture and fisheries in Miyagi Prefecture

Moritomo, Y.: Agriculture and farm villages in the great earthquake disaster

Nihira, A.: The Great East Japan Earthquake and problems of reconstruction of fisheries

Sagawa, K.: The conversation to sustainable energy and the people's way to life

Kondoh, M.: Sources of revenue for recovery and reconstruction from the Great East Japan Earthquake

Essay

Itoh, M.: Visiting Matsukawa Village, a Tsunami-stricken area in Fukushima

Forum

Bando, M.: Construction of the 21<sup>st</sup> century type of inter-disciplinary science

Opinion

Niu, K.: In order to realize "researchers' rights, status, and ethics" in JSA movements

Vol.47 No.4 (2012)

Title page message

Shioya, H.: Safety philosophy of the nuclear power generation

Special feature: Social responsibility of scientists

Nakasuka, N.: Introduction

Osada, Y.: Social responsibility of scientists in the issue of nuclear power plants: Scientists' knowledge and wisdom are required to put together toward their abolition

Sawada, S.: The present status of research on the human effects of radiation: From my experience through the collective lawsuit for certification of A-bomb disease

Toyoshima, K.: Why are "government-patronized scholars" free of criticism in the academic community?

Sakamaki, Y.: Social responsibility of scientists: From the viewpoints of environmental and disaster issues

Essay

Takeda, H.: Participating in the activity of relief and reconstruction of Miyako region, Iwata Prefecture

Forum

Okayama H.: Radiation exposure induced by the Fukushima accident and the manner of discussion: The Japanese society prohibits sound discussion

Review

Fujita, Y.: The Great Earthquake and the local autonomy

Frontier

Iida, K.: The nuclear disaster and a step toward rehabilitation

Series: Prospects of novel framework for social system (5)

Shirai, K.: Compulsion of the national flag and the national anthem, and the constitution (Part 1)