

THE BULLETIN OF JSA

THE JAPAN SCIENTISTS' ASSOCIATION

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JAPANESE CHALLENGE AT THE THIRD TURNING POINT IN THE 21ST CENTURY

The Liaison Conference for studying peace and democracy (JSA being a member) organized a symposium inviting Dr. Ninomiya (Prof. Emeritus, Kobe Univ.) on February 13 to discuss the Abe Administration's hawkish policies.

He started with insisting the Abe Cabinet would bring the greatest danger in the Constitution protection during three years with no national election. What is the third turning point in the 21st century? The first was the structural change the Koizumi Administration conducted for amending the torsion between business circle and administration to transform from inference-peddling in politics to neo-liberalism, the second the change on administration to get out from neo-liberalism. Though the election at the end of the last year had been expected as a spring board of the third turning point, it was indeed the end of the neo-liberalism under the Noda Administration.

The general election resulted in overwhelming victory of the neo-liberalism party to revise the Constitution. The reasons for pro-constitution and democracy parties not to have made progress were the single-seat constituency, politically conservative swing, and poor policy based on poverty under circumstances of neo-liberalistic stock pile. Though Democratic Liberal Party won the election, the result tells us the fragility of the support base considering number of votes obtained. The third turning point started due to the torsion between business circle and administration brought about the birth of the Abe Administration.

The professor explained Abenomics, economic and monetary policies of S. Abe, came on stage against the background of the difficulty to rise the consumption tax and outgrow from deflationary slump. Abe's macroeconomic policy will fail. Its monetary policy will not vitalize domestic demand. The fiscal policy will not overcome dull consumption. The economic growth strategy vainly expects external demand and investment lead. He exemplified phenomena caused by the torsion to raise a few problems as social security reform due to the national congress for social security reform, resumption of operation of nuclear power plants, TPP participation, the relocation of the US Futenma base in Okinawa to Henoko, and escalation of neo-liberalistic educational reform. He ended with stressing the necessity of national integration, as seen in the result of Tokyo gubernatorial election, for staging a counterattack to the forces of reaction and neo-liberalists against the peaceful Constitution.

"IS IT POSSIBLE TO SHIFT TO NATURAL RENEWABLE ENERGY?" HELD

The National Liaison Committee to eliminate nuclear power plant held a study meeting on January 15, 2013 with about 40 participants. After the opening address by Mr. Yoneda (Secretary-general of JSA), Mr. Ohtomo (Representative of Natural Energy Research Center) presented a lecture titled "Is it possible to shift to natural renewable energy?" It was interested that the practice of biomass projects which has performed by the lecturer in Hokkaido. A certain hotel in Ashibetsu City spends 63 million yen per year of fuel expenses for heavy oil and almost the expenses flows out of the local region. The hotel substituted woody chips and pellets produced in the local region for heavy oil. As a result the wood procurement sites in the region, fuel conversion plants, and fuel dealers made total earnings of nearly 10 million yen and the hotel also could save 10 million yen of the fuel expenses. Money flows outside of the region no longer and money

circulation in the region was born. In addition, there is advantage of not being affected by the price fluctuations of oil, if this mechanism is established once.

On conditions of the local economic circulation realization, Mr. Otomo gave three points those are supply of raw materials, quality of fuel chips and performance of combustion equipment. He also said that NERC is producing high efficiency, high-performance overseas boilers under license in the country. These boilers can be manufactured in small and medium-sized factories and the job creation in the region would be promoted.

Finally he points out that "Society having soft technology "which was proposed by Robin Clark is needful for the spread of renewable energy and he appealed to participants for cooperation in the capital contribution to NERC promoting natural energy utilization.

“THE 8TH ANNIVERSARY MEETING OF THE SCIENTISTS’ ASSOCIATION OF THE ARTICLE 9” WAS HELD

The Scientists’ Association of the Article 9 (The Japan Scientists’ Association is our partner) and the Article 9 Association was held a meeting “The New Crisis of the Article 9” for its 8th Anniversary. 450 participants gathered included participants in outside of the meeting room, and it was lively party.

Youichi Komori who is director of Article 9 Association and the Scientists’ Association of the Article 9 gave opening remarks. The special presenters were Prof. Hitoshi Igarashi (Hosei Univ.) and Prof. Takeo Matsuda (Osaka City Univ.).

Prof. Igarashi’s presentation title was “Campaign for Drift of the right Japanese politics and Crisis of Japanese constitution- risk breaching/ active constitution” and he talked process of leading to drift to the right of politics from Noda regime to Abe regime. He characterized the process “Tragedy Rider”, and in the political background there were “people reinforce a sense of stagnation and it is difficult for people to find the frustration that will take over insolvent ones; he pointed out “it is infested with populism which using by simple and brave word” and he urged audience to do a campaign for next election.

Prof. Matsuda talked “the right for collective self-defense”. He analyzed Abe Cabinet’s trend effect which gets further into the right for collective self-defense from “Report of the Advisory Panel on Reconstruction of the Legal Basis for Security”. In an ongoing way, coalition of the Self Defense Forces and US armed forces have almost ready for right of collective self-defense by outline of escort aircraft carriers of the US Navy and data link, and the UN Security Council is not fair due to great-power countries interest. It is dangerous to get Self Defense Forces into these situations which he pointed out.

After the joint representative Katahira’s closing remarks, association of Article 9 across the universities and institutions held a party and members from Kanagawa, Tsukuba, Niigata, Nagano, Aichi and Sano had exchanged their activities at the party.

NATIONAL LIAISON CONFERENCE FOR TOTAL CLOSURE OF NUCLEAR PLANTS: IS SWITCHING TO RENEWABLE NATURAL ENERGY FEASIBLE?

A study meeting, the third of the series, of the 'national liaison conference for total closure of nuclear plants' was held on January 15, 2013, with over forty citizens participating.

Following an opening address by Dr. Yoneda, the director-general of JSA that hosted the conference, Dr. Ootomo, Norio, the representative of the Natural Energy Research Center (NERC) gave a lecture on the theme "Is switching to renewable natural energy feasible?". I was most impressed by the story of the biomass project he was undertaking in Hokkaido. He said a hotel in the City of Ashibetsu had been consuming heavy fuel oil worth 63 million yen annually and most of the payment was flowing out of the area.

They substituted chips and pellets of wood cut down locally for the oil. As a result, a total of nearly 10 million yen was generated at the sites of procuring wood, the fuelization facilities and fuel stores in the area and, in addition, the hotel saved 10 million yen in fuel expenses. The money did not flow out the area anymore and began circulating within the area. Once established, this system also has advantage of being not influenced by fluctuation of oil prices.

Dr. Ootomo mentioned security of raw materials, quality of fuel chip and performance of combustion equipment as three requirements to realize local economic circulation. As for combustion equipment, he said NERC was producing highly efficient and high powered boilers licensed from abroad and he presented a variety of those boilers. He says these boilers could be produced at smaller local factories and this could create employments locally.

In conclusion he pointed out that a "soft' technology society" as proposed by Robin Clark should be formed in order for natural energy to be popularized, and appealed for contribution to NERC which is promoting active use of natural energy.

Being impressed by Dr. Ootomo's book, I visited the 'Bihoro Eco House' in Bihorocho, Hokkaido, for our honeymoon. It was my great pleasure to see him, the author of the book.

(K. Sagawa)

NUCLEAR POWER GENERATION SYMPOSIUM IN FUKUSHIMA

The JSA headquarters and the Fukushima branch held a symposium on March 8 through 9 with 130 participants. On the first day, Prof. Yasuda (lawyer) addressed a keynote speech entitled "Action for preventing the Fukushima Daini Nuclear Power Plant from resumption of operation and our experience".

In the sequel participants discussed separately in three session meetings

Session I "Livelihood support required in present for sufferers and rescues": Prof. Suzuki talked about the actual condition of livelihood support from his experience of volunteer activity in Fukushima. Prof. Chiba, having been engaged in development project in Iidate Village since before the great earthquake, stressed such project had been conducive to self-subsistence of sufferers.

Session II "Nuclear power plant disaster and regional industry": From detailed investigation on the situation of radioactive contamination at farmlands, Prof. Koyama pointed out the reason of harmful rumor was the lack of reliability in safety inspection, and claimed the building of new system. Prof. Hatsuzawa, based on actual condition survey in Minamisoma city, talked about a local economic issue after the great earthquake disaster, which relates the industrial structure before the disaster, and said that it is necessary to settle the previous regional issue for the recovery.

Session III "Local government and movement over nuclear power generation": Mr. Ito the history of Fukushima Daini Nuclear Power Plant suits brought about change in Fukushima Prefecture's policy of nuclear power generation, and noted that the event had been predicted in the course of these suits. Ms. Muto made a report of the actual situation of the Daini Nuclear Power Plant group lawsuit and said the plaintiffs have been collecting sources of evidence. Mr. Hirota reported on actions for complete compensation in Fukushima and decommissioning of six reactors in Fukushima, showing a lot of legal counsels came up after the disaster cannot be united, which indicates seriously expanding influence of the accident.

In the discussion one of participants pointed the movement to ask decommissioning of nuclear plants in Fukushima is different from the one to appeal for compensation and need that as the will of all residents in Fukushima.

On the second day participants visited Kawauchi Village in the process of coming home after evacuation, and heard the actual circumstances of the village that industrial promotion and reconstruction have been conducted, but it encounters many problems such as recovery of population. They observed in detail emergent provisional housing which the village contrived to convert in future to village-run housing. That will point a way to build oncoming shelters.

APPEAL FOR ESCAPING FURTHER MILITARIZATION AND DEPENDENCE ON NUCLEAR ARMAMENT BASED ON THE JAPAN-US ALLIANCE, AND INSTEAD BUILDING A PEACEFUL AND SUSTAINABLE SOCIETY

Residents of Okinawa Prefecture and all its local governments unanimously demand that the deployment of MV-22 Ospreys in US Marine bases in Okinawa should be retracted, the Futenma Air Station should be closed and removed out of Okinawa, and the plan to relocate the base within Okinawa should be abandoned. The US Marine Corps nevertheless forced

deployment of 12 Ospreys at the Futenma Air Station, breaking even the Japan-US agreement exchanged to secure the safe operation, and is operating them also in the mainland as well as in Okinawa.

The government of Japan not only accepted it but also approved additional deployment of 12 more Ospreys at Futenma. Meanwhile, this March, the Japanese government dared to submit to the Okinawa's governor the application for reclamation of public water body for the purpose of construction of a new military base at Henoko, Nago City, while leaving critical flaws in procedures of environmental impact assessment.

The governments of Japan and the United States justify these outrageous acts making reference to nuclear arms and missiles of North Korea and threats from China such as the Senkaku issue. However, these power-dependent political measures actually make the conflicts intractable and raise tensions with neighbors.

By strengthening Japan-US alliance, Japan is incorporated closer into America's nuclear strategy. As a result, Japan, the victim of nuclear bombing, did nevertheless vote neither for the resolution to start to negotiate on the nuclear weapons convention, nor for the joint statement, issued by a preparatory committee to re-examine the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) that criticizes nuclear weapons for its inhumane nature and calls for abolition of nuclear weapons.

It is nothing less than subservience to the nuclear posture of the United States that the Japanese government plays down the impact of radiation exposure, does not provide answers to questions from local residents about the safety of the US navy's nuclear carrier and the nuclear submarines stationed at the naval port in Yokosuka which is very close to the capital, adheres to restarting nuclear plants and to maintaining the nuclear fuel cycle, and also promotes government-led export of nuclear plants.

Realignment and reinforcement of the Self-Defense Forces such as troops and installations of missile defense are also being promoted along the lines of the policy to strengthen the Japan-US alliance. The Liberal Democratic Party, aiming at and going ahead of changing the Constitution and of establishing the 'armed forces', now seeks to enact a fundamental law on national security and a law of national secrets, to create amphibious troops by introducing Ospreys, to consider maintenance of assault capability against enemy bases, and to considerably expand the manpower and the budget of the Self-Defense Forces.

In this way, the Japanese government only follows the military/foreign policy of the United States, strengthens the military alliance at the cost of safety of the Japanese citizens and drags down the effort toward nuclear abolition. These policies must be drastically changed. A new framework of 'cold war' in the 21st century East Asia must not be built. It is the only way to realize a true 'security' to protect the lives and the livelihood of the Japanese citizens that the Japanese government stops fortifying the Japan-US alliance and pursues friendly and cooperative relations with neighboring Asian countries by developing peace diplomacy in accordance with the spirit of the Constitution of Japan. The Japan Scientists' Association, as an academic organization striving for building peace and for realizing a sustainable society, is committed to achieve these purposes.

May 26, 2013

The 44th General Assembly of the Japan Scientists' Association

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) LECTURE “PRESENT STATE AND TASKS OF RADIOACTIVE CONTAMINATION OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS “

The radioactive materials released by the accident of Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant contaminate farmland and water and cause the massive damage to agricultural products. In order to understand the present state and tasks, the JSA research committee of foodstuff problems held a regular study meeting in Tokyo on January 26, 2012, where Dr. Namai (Tsukuba Univ., ret.) were invited. The theme stimulated public interest and many citizens attended.

The lecturer explained not only the contamination of agricultural products but also many wide topics showing

abundant materials. At the beginning of his lecture, he pointed out that the philosophy about the Risk Assessment of ICRP (International Commission on Radiological Protection) was based on the theory of risk-benefit-cost and paid no consideration on the internal radiation exposure. He emphasized that the assessment of ECRR (European Committee of Radiation Risk) which regarded the internal radiation exposure as important should be adopted.

The lecturer pointed out the Japanese administration attitude that intended always to consider the importance of accident to an absolute minimum. He also pointed out that the internal radiation exposure was almost neglected, the regulatory limits have no scientific meaning and the investigated spots of contamination were few. He directed his criticism at the inspection system that only Cesium was investigated but Strontium and Plutonium were not.

The lecturer also touched upon the importance of contamination of forest and the problems of present state of contamination of sea which was not clear. These should be promptly taken measure.

Finally, the lecturer offered such propositions as breaking down of the constitutional nature of the Government to withhold information, providing a law to correspond the nuclear power plant accident and radioactive materials emitted, total compensation of contaminated farmlands and the other by Tokyo Electric Power Co. Inc., exhaustive inspection of foodstuffs and indication of Becquerel (Bq) value and establishment of democratic system for investigation and consultation.

2) SYMPOSIUM “SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, AND ACADEMIC POLICIES AFTER THE MARCH 11” HELD

It passed one and a half years from the establishing of the Basic Program for Science and Technology (4) since the Great East Japan Earthquake Disaster happened. The JSA committee for science and technological policy held a symposium with the above title on 9 February, 2013. Two reports were given.

Dr. Kawanaka (AIST) made a speech about the reform of the Council for Science and Technology, the Japanese science-technology policy and the reconstruction of research institutions. He rived the context of the important measure of the Basic Program for Science and Technology (4), discussion on the transform of the Council for Science and Technology at the council to “Science and Technology Innovation Headquarters”. They discuss the prioritizing of resource allocation, and the providing of authority to directly make each concerned agency conduct measures. The floor pointed out the economic circle claimed to occupy the council with the major of its members, which they pointed out makes more serious the distortion of science and technology. The system, administration policy, and research contents of AIST were introduced.

Lecturer Hatsuyama (Tohoku Univ.) reported the statement of the Tohoku University office that the university underwent the 40 billion damage, while checked out the efficiency of aseismic construction of buildings viewing zero deaths and few building collapse on the occasion of the earthquake, and the office found university’s role should be played as the rescue of university hospital, the operation as a shelter for victims, an information base, and etc. Those however do not reflect the Basic Program for Science and Technology (4), which blatantly defines the earth quake disaster recovery as a chance to promote innovation. He expressed his hope to the establishment of the international institute of disaster science involving human and social sciences.

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 ON THE FREEDOM TO PRESENT STUDY RESULTS

The science committee, Tokyo branch, held a symposium on January 19, which was to discuss the unfair lawsuit against Prof. Nonaka (Meiji Univ.). The case was that APF (Asian Partnership Fund) accused of slander and demanded ¥55 million compensation and apology ad for the professor’s paper concerning the actual state of the fund and expert evidence submitted to Tokyo Labor Relations Board. Researchers, employees contending against unfair treatment of employers, and citizens participated in the symposium.

First the professor explained her research on the control of other business and this filed suit, especially social character of accounting system and the method of accounting research, and the relation with affairs of controlling corporations by the

fund. She stressed that accounting takes an academic stance to protect investors as well as employees, and citizens and it was her basic standpoint to struggle at the court.

Dr. Osada (branch representative secretary) pointed out this unfair lawsuit is just a SLAPP (Strategic Lawsuit Against Public Participation), which suppresses research findings by extravagant compensation claim on the pretext of defamation, and violates academic freedom Article 23 of the Constitution advocates. He also said that it causes a crisis in research and education places and so the struggle against the event is needed there.

Mr. Tokusumi (chief attorney) talked about the labor union's struggle around collective bargaining right against APF managers and the reality of control of Showa Rubber Corporation by APF, clarifying Prof. Nonaka need not be called civil liability on account of her paper and expert evidence.

2) ATTEMPT OF FUKUSHIMA AGRICULTURAL REGENERATION BY PLANT FACTORY

Mr. Takeha (former President Kyoto Prefectural University) is an expert of plant physiology. At Seika campus of Kyoto Prefectural University he is working on research and development of plant factories in which all of electric power is supplied by fuel cell and solar power. In the open lecture meeting held by Shiga branch he described new production methods which save energy and water based on his results and the attempt of Fukushima agriculture regeneration.

In this next-generation eco-type plant factory which was established in March, 2012 he got many experimental achievements in one year.

Nikkei News Papers under date February 27, 2013 reported that a plant factory is supported by consumers by stable quality and price.

Cultivation conditions of delicious vegetables rich in mineral and with high antioxidant capacity are studied in this factory. Not only tomatoes and lettuce root vegetables such as potatoes and radish are also object of study.

The next generation eco-type plant factory has the potential to get more minerals and nutrients that vegetables lost in custom cultivation for many years.

Such studies are underway at NASA etc. but to get the information is almost impossible. Unfortunately there are many barriers such as ethical issues and high cost for the Fukushima agricultural regeneration. Also wishes of the producer in Fukushima being unacceptable agriculture without soil can't be ignored.