

THE JAPAN SCIENTISTS' ASSOCIATION

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No.149

July 25, 2017

The 3rd symposium elucidates the current situation where contradiction deepens

The 3rd university symposium was held on March 20, 2017 at Chuo University with 50 participants. The theme of the symposium was “University self-government/ autonomy - aiming for creating a university for citizens “.

Prof. Miwa (Emeritus Prof., Chiba Univ.) and Professor Haruyama (Senshyu Univ.) gave reports titled “University autonomy and university finance”, and “the revolving door of the Ministry of Education and university autonomy “, respectively. In addition, there were remarks by three participants to deepen the discussion.

Prof. Miwa historically clarified that the Abe regime’s “educational revitalization” and “constitutional amendment” are two pillars of “the sloughing off post-war regime” and he explained university autonomy and academic freedom historically and confirmed them in global trends. In addition he analyzed the current university policy comprehensively from the aspect of finance, science and technology policy and military research. He pointed out that it is an urgent task to make the university’s joint fight against the all-out attack of the Abe administration against university autonomy and it is a social responsibility of university people to protect the university mission for human dignity and peace against the university policy which compels military research.

Prof. Haruyama said that the revolving door was illegal until 2007, but it became legal by National Civil Service Law revision which was enforced under the First Abe Cabinet.

The eradication of the revolving door by Prime Minister Abe is an entire lie and the revolving door problem occurred in neo-liberal reform such as deregulation, privatization, promoting public and private exchange. The real nature of the revolving door is destruction of fairness and neutrality of public affairs and the revolving door in university has two problems which are distortion of university administration of fairness and neutrality and destruction of university autonomy and academic freedom.

The following serious problems were pointed out by the participants. Those are, university finance, female researcher problem, current status of graduate students based on their questionnaires, unfair labor practices occurring at Tsuru university, president's arbitrary campus management. Attention should be

paid to the fact that interference in universities from installers and parliaments is strengthening at public universities. This symposium made us realize the necessity of the collaborative efforts of university people to bring back the university to the citizens.

The 12th anniversary meeting of the Scientists' Society for Protecting the Article 9 of Japanese Constitution: Thinking about the Trump Administration and the Future of Japan

Commemorating the 12th anniversary of The Society for Protecting the Article 9 of Japanese Constitution, the Society held a meeting on Saturday, March 18, at Meiji University. Two lectures were offered to the attendance. The first was given by Yuichiro Miyake, Professor of Law and Constitution at Mie Junior College. The title of his lecture was "The Trump Administration and Japan-US Security Treaty: The Possibility of Control over the Military in the United States." Miyake evaluated the results of Japan-US primary meeting in February, 2017. He got an analysis of the wars without human beings' involvement using drones. The Congress and the President practically have the possibility of preventing wars, because they have many complicated controlling rights over the military organizations. He stressed that we the people should commit ourselves to the cause of world peace.

The second was given by Shinjiro Hagiwara, Professor of Economics, at Yokohama National University, emeritus. The title of his lecture was "Turning Point of Globalization and the Future of Japan-US Economies." Hagiwara analyzed the characteristics of the Trump Administration and the difference between Trump's position and the majority of GOP. He pointed out that the Trump administration had get out of the TPP and turned to the bilateral external economic policy. Trump also would like to change the military-political stance around the world and be friendly with Russia. Hagiwara criticized the stance of the Abe Administration in Japan, which is always dependent on the US politics and uncritically follows the policy of the Trump Administration. Hagiwara finally stressed the important role of uniting the opposition parties in Japan and changing the regime.

In discussion, many topics were presented. There were the evaluations of RCEP in Asia, US strategies against China, the future of wars in the Middle East and etc. Especially that Onaga, Governor of Okinawa visited United States was taken up and the importance of direct working to the US and Japanese Government was stressed.

Finally, Hirokuni Honda, the head of the Bureau of this Society reported Society' activities. Ichiro Urata, Meiji University retired from one of the representatives of this Society in April, and Yoko Shida, Tama Art University will replace his position. Hirokuni Honda, Dokkyo University will retire from the head of the Bureau and Shigeki Nagayama, Tokai University will replace his position. About 130 people joined this meeting and it was successfully ended.

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) STUDY MEETING OF TUNNELING TECHNOLOGY

JSA liaison committee of linear Chuo Shinkansen problems opened the study meeting of tunneling technology on January 21, where Mr. Otsuka (Shimizu Co.), learned technician who has long engaged in tunneling work, was to deliver a lecture “Actual state and issues of tunneling technology and hard tunneling works.”

Dr. Osada (committee chair) first explained that the JSA has appealed to call off the linear Chuo Shinkansen project, and has been exploring the project from professional viewpoints. Though technically tough nuts might be overcome considering the world leading level of Japanese technique, it does not justify carrying out the plan. He also added his hope that by consensus of the people the argument should be scientifically brought to a consequence, and this meeting be of some help.

Mr. Otsuka first explained a standard mountain tunneling method, NATM (New Austrian Tunneling Method), and how the shape of tunnel cross-sections is preserved by stress balance of ground and shotcrete seeking stress change around cavity in tunnel and stability conditions. His explanation was due to a simple model experiment with bean curds. He applied load two bean curds with a hole in the center, a facial tissue being pasted up on the inner wall for the one of holes, not for the other one. The hole pasted with a tissue was not broken, while the other was. That illustrates the effect of inner wall reinforcement by shotcrete. The speaker talked about his experiences of hard works, for instance, the tunnel just excavated suddenly shrank, swelling rocks pushed out excavating equipment as far as 100 meter, volumes of water gushed as if a mighty river was dug up, and so on. Such things possibly happen at every place, so we must conduct anecdotal survey beforehand. Japanese geological strata are complicated and it is hard to predict what happens in tunneling works, he says.

In the discussion opinions were exchanged about the following themes: route change at high-pressure groundwater inflow, soil pollution, the affection of uplift of Japanese Southern Alps, durable years of concrete, residents’ life over tunnel, maintenance, etc.

Mr. Sekishima (lawyer, defense counsel) reported the point of dispute and tasks, noticed that this lawsuit will be an unprecedented scientific dispute, and requested JSA’s full cooperation. The Central Japan Railway Company rushes into commencement of work, and intends to create a fait accompli. The group of lawyers desires to increase supporters to intensify the campaign. Actions in three cities were finally reported.

2) THE SECOND MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE OF UNIVERSITY PROBLEM

The second meeting of the committee of university problem was held on December 3, 2016. The discussion subjects were: 1. The situation surrounding the university, 2. Holding a symposium on university problem, 3. Making countermeasures for government's higher education policy, 4. Preparation for the next JSA National Convention.

With regard to the first subject, the following universities' problems were reported. Those were strengthening cooperation of military science and the attitude of the Science Council of Japan regarding it, confusion caused by faculty budget reduction linked with the university president's budget pool system, disadvantage of faculty staff reduction, problem of hiring a part-time faculty staff, university management of neglecting faculty meetings, university integration led by prefectural governments. Furthermore, the committee discussed the education policy of Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology as “System of designated national university corporation”, “Excellent Graduate School”, and “Influence of elementary and junior school academic tests”. The committee also discussed the “The review of Scientific Committee on Security and Science” of the Science Council of Japan.

The committee decided to call on other organizations for holding a joint symposium on university issues will be held in March 2017, which was held in succession for two years.

Regarding policy making, the committee confirmed that we will continuously discuss and compile truly necessary measures based on the university philosophy, in order to transform them into citizen-oriented university policy.

3) Activities of the JSA committee of national and public experimental research institutes problems
Most of national experimental research institutes are transformed into independent corporations. Since 2015 according to the independent corporation reform by the Abe Cabinet, the corporations were crowned with National Research and Development Agency. In last autumn the Government appointed three independent corporations named Specific National Research and Development Corporation. After the reform, the institutions have been repeatedly undergone the reformation to promote the efficiency, in fact, to reduce the budget and the work force. Even specific national R&D corporations are not taken “specific” budgetary steps, though required the highest level in the world.

On the other hand, the national institute is expected the *bridging research* connecting fundamental researches at other institutes like universities with business, as a growth engine of innovation, due to governmental strategy of growth. The state government and economic circle impetuously ask for the fruits applicable to business. Considering that security technology research promotion institution started, they quite likely expect contribution to military research.

The committee is acting to elucidate various issues at research institutes and to explore the way to settle them. At 21st CSSC (Comprehensive Scientific Study Convention), recognizing that issues at national institutes originate from independent corporation institution itself and to improve them it is necessary for persons working at various institutes to request in concert, we put in a session “Reevaluation of independent corporation institution – What is needed for the people to get back universities and national and public experimental institutes?”, where five reports concerning the institution and a bunch of issues at national institutes were presented.

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) “REVIEW THE ISSUE OF MOVING OF TSUKIJI MARKET TO TOYOSU” IN TOKYO

We have held the above titled Field Work (FE) on Jan 15th (Sun) in 2017 at Tsukiji Market (40 participants). It was at the timing after Koike was inaugurated as mayor of Tokyo and Japan Communist Party had revealed that the land elevation, which was a pivotal countermeasure to land contamination, was not done under the buildings of Toyosu (newly prepared premises for the market).

Prior to the FW, Makoto Nakazawa, chairperson of labor union of Metropolitan Central Market, has reported under the theme of "The issue of Toyosu Market and safety of foods":

(1) Toyosu is the site of demolished gas production factory of Tokyo Gas. It is the land of contamination, with benzene, cyan, arsenic, lead, etc., of the widest-scale and the highest density in Japan, it had been long untouched as vacant land.

(2) The moving plan was not only rejected by all members' voting of Metropolitan Wholesale Cooperative of Fishery Market in 1998 but other bodies were wishing refurbishment of the Tsukiji Market in their hearts.

(3) Ishihara, inaugurated as mayor in 1999, promoted the moving plan by force. While the highest organ of decision-making, the committee of new market construction, was not held for 4 years, “outline of plan for moving to Toyosu and the construction” was issued without body of report in Nov. 2012.

(4) Tsukiji Market has been demonstrating overwhelming effectivity of logistics, contrary to opinions of some promoters of moving. The moving should be stopped as it would threat the safety of foods. We should aim at renewal of both Tsukiji and Toyosu.

Chairperson Nakazawa has then guided us to every department of crowded Tsukiji Market and historical buildings. We had an overall view of arrangement of Tsukiji from a roof top by ascending with an elevator for goods.

We have made a fresh resolve for rebirth of Tsukiji Market that has been supporting diet of Tokyo and Japan from among the forest of skyscrapers.

2) MINI LECTURE ON “MEANING OF LAWSUIT CHALLENGING THE CONSTITUTIONALITY OF SECURITY LEGISLATION” IN YAMAGUCHI

A lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of security legislation was instituted to Yamaguchi district court at the end of last year. A study meeting with the above title was held on January 18, 2017, at the campus of Yamaguchi University, inviting Mr. Uchiyama (lawyer, defense counsel) as a lecturer.

Mr. Uchiyama explained that this lawsuit was the one to seek compensation for infringement of rights the Constitution advocates like right of existence in peace by just passed new security legislation, based on the right to make a claim for government compensation, and it was the 13th suit among 15 suits across the country.

Two years before, a resolution on opposition of lawless behavior of cabinet and diet has been adopted in Yamaguchi Bar Association (Yamaguchi Pref. is the constituency of Prime Minister Abe), where the major part of attorneys supports conservative party. The resolution states that the security legislation is unconstitutional and was ruled against constitutionalism. Most of constitutional scholars and judges are of the same mind. The defense counsel aims to let the judicial branch (court) play the

role as a garden of the Constitution against infringement of the Constitution that the administrative branch (cabinet) and legislative branch (the Diet) conducted. To do that the counsel is to organize supporters for the plaintiff group and the action and to point to concrete infringement of each plaintiff's right, he says.

In the discussion the attorney appended that the defense counsel has a plan to make an additional institution by increasing plaintiff until the first pleading and finished up with saying that the counsel could win the case unless judges are reshuffled.

3) SYMPOSIUM "GATHERING TO REVIEW THE SENDAI NUCLEAR POWER PLANT" IN KAGOSHIMA

In Kagoshima prefecture, Satoshi Mitazono has won the election for governor in July 2016 by beating the incumbent who was a promoter of resumption of Sendai Nuclear Power Plant. However, Mitazono later virtually approved the resumption by saying, "I do not have the right (to decide) whether to let it resume or not."

Under such circumstances, Kagoshima Branch has held the symposium, "Gathering to review the Sendai Nuclear Power Plant," on Feb. 18th cosponsoring with Union of teachers and staffs of Kagoshima Univ. at the faculty of agriculture of Kagoshima Univ.

We invited Jun Tateno who first reported on "Status and problems, 5 years after Fukushima accident." Dr. Tateno explained that light water reactors have fundamental defect that it is impossible to control heat of reaction and containment function becomes nominal; he explained based on what happened in the initial stage of Fukushima accident and from the latest pictures of debris. He pointed out characteristics of the new regulations and problems of conformity assessment.

The second reporter Tadashi Yagi (The International University of Kagoshima, member of JSA Kagoshima Branch) presented on "Sendai Nuclear Power Plant and renewable energy – viewpoint of local economy"; he pointed out the past accidents of the plant and risks of earthquakes and activities volcanos. Local economy would be revitalized by collaboration with decommissioning of the reactors and transformation to renewable energies, he pointed out.

The third reporter under the title, "Issues around Sendai Nuclear Power Plant," was Yoshitaka Mukohara (Nanpou Shinsha) who is steering anti-nuclear activities in Kagoshima. He pointed out that marine lives such as turtles, sharks, and stingrays die because of thermal discharge and hauls of seaweeds, sailfish, etc. have been declining; thermal discharge has problems (temperatures and volume etc.).

Active discussions followed the reports. They questioned how to evaluate nuclear plants, how should be the treatment of plutonium etc. Number of participants was 67 including citizens and researchers.

4) HISTORICAL PERCEPTION IS CHALLENGED NOW FACING THE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CONSTITUTION: REPORT FROM A RALLY AGAINST THE FEBRUARY 11 "NATIONAL FOUNDATION DAY" IN TOKYO

The Defense Minister twisted the Constitution by replacing the word 'battle' in South Sudan with the word 'collision'. The minister of Justice hindered Diet proceeding of the conspiracy bill. In the face of Abe administration's increasingly flagrant unconstitutional runaway, 260 protesters gathered at the above meeting which was the 51st of its kind.

In the lecture titled "The Japan-US military alliance and Japan's history since the 20th Century aiming to outlaw war", KAWAMURA Toshio, Chairman of the Constitutional Convention, pointed out that the New Guidelines for Japan-U.S. Defense Cooperation was a key factor that had brought the present critical situation over the Constitution. With this background, he said, the Self-Defense Force was transformed to assume the responsibility of "rush-and rescue" overseas missions for foreign PKO troops with the use of weapons allowed. This has become possible after the new national security-related legislation was forcefully passed the year before last.

Abe administration keeps saying there are threats from China and North Korea and the security situation is changing. He criticized the Abe style "Proactive Contribution to Peace" that gives priority to military response much like in the cold war era should result in greater tensions. Powerful countries once called war divine right of the state. But having paid great sacrifices during the two world wars, the United Nations outlawed war and our war-renouncing Constitution was created, he emphasized.

KAWAMURA also asked how we can overcome the present situation and said movements and a joint effort by the opposition parties that partly broke down the ground of Abe administration in the previous Upper House election should be fortified even more. He concluded the speech by saying that public opinion can be and must be changed this way by grass-root civil movement that exceeds the conflict over the Japan-US security treaty in the 60s.

In the "relay talks" after the lecture, TARA O Mitsunori (Japanese Coalition Against Military Research in Academia) called on scholars, academics and citizens for jointly spreading an urgent signature campaign demanding repeal of the program called "National Security Technology Research Promotion" funded by the Ministry of Defense. The call was made amid the situation the Chairman of the Science Council of Japan accept the idea of "research for self-defense".

Academia whose principle is "openness, freedom, democracy and internationalism" is fundamentally incompatible with the military whose principle is "secrecy, restriction, command-obedience relation, and nationalism". Introduction of military logics thus impairs academic freedom.

5) SYMPOSIUM BY NUCLEAR PROBLEM COMMITTEE

The Nuclear Problem Committee, jointly with Nuclear and Energy Related-Information Centre ; NERIC, held a symposium on "Restarting nuclear plants and decommissioning the Monju reactor" on March 5, 2017 at the Bunkyo Ward Civic Center. Here are the titles, speakers and the contents.

(1) "The restart problem and the regulation regime in foreign countries" by SATO Satoshi.

In the beginning TATENO Jun introduced the speaker SATO who was a former GE engineer and was well acquainted with the regulations in the United States. He has been opposing exporting nuclear plants from Japan to Vietnam. The idea of safety and systems of regulation as keywords, SATO compared those of Japan and of the United States. He said the nuclear reactors under construction in Finland and in France are all messed up in terms of cost and schedule.

In the question and answer session after the talk, he pointed out that American regulation authority is very strict and that inspectors must have technological competence to spot deception but Japanese inspectors lack this capability.

(2) “Lawsuit and citizen’s movement against nuclear power plant” by YAMAMOTO Masahiko

A number of lawsuits have been filed in Japan against nuclear power plants. The March 2011 Fukushima accident, however, drastically changed the entire situation. YAMAMOTO showed with specific examples that earlier lawsuits i.e. “Monju” and “Ikata plant” were both successful (though the supreme Court ruled to the contrary) but the score became four wins and six losses after the catastrophe. As things stand now, out of fifteen reactors in Fukui Prefecture, 5 are to be decommissioned and, nationwide, 15 reactors are to be decommissioned, 15 are under examination, 10 are approved and 17 are unapplied. Nuclear power plants currently in operation are only three and thus the public opinion of zero nuclear power is ever growing.

(3) “Decommission of Monju” by IWAI Takashi

The actual operators of Monju are workers dispatched from the manufacturer. If they get out, then operation becomes impossible. The promoters intend to utilize the fast-breeder reactor for reduction of radioactivity. They expect to convert long-life nuclides such as Americium into shorter-lived ones by exposing the highly neutron-emitting materials to proton beam in an accelerator. Though it may be possible in the laboratory, practical realization is impossible because it cost an immense sum of money.