

**Realization of social responsibility of scientific workers:
The activity for adopting the documents, “The declaration of rights and status of
researchers” and “The ethical code of researchers”**

The Japan Scientist’ Association (JSA) regards the widest understanding and popular acceptance of science in developing humanity as the primary condition for creating a new world in the 21st century. The JSA herewith plans to publish the following two documents: “The declaration of rights and status of researchers” and “The ethical code of researchers”. In order to polish up the contents, many discussions have been made, the version 5 of which is given below.

1. Scientific workers’ rights in Japan

The Japan’s economy has been pressed to greatly change so as to meet the prolonged depression and the world globalization pressure, for which the government, under a neo-liberalism policy, has been carrying out various reform plans in the name of “structural reform”. The government, on the one side, has realized the policy of the establishment of a state on the basis of science and technology, which is to overcome the above depression and globalization problems by creating a so-called new industry in the presence of the key science and technology. On the other side, however, the preponderant distribution of the competitive funds into the above key research resulted in the budgetary restriction to the other area such as fundamental science, human and social sciences, and research foundations, which brought about the enlargement of the gap of research conditions and the processing the lack of coordination of research system including the instability of researchers’ status. Such environment gives rise to great distortion for developing the real science and technology in Japan. Furthermore, the economic circle takes advantage of the US’s military policy, proposing that science and technology should be applied to military purpose. Accordingly the government describes “Security of the land and society” in a new science and technological manifest, strongly suggesting the propulsion of military research.

On the other hand, under the governmental line of a so-called reform plan, all the national institution and university were transformed into a corporative management system (started 2004), which gave rise to the hard control of the institutional management and its centralization, resulting in infringing the academic and research freedom, destroying university autonomy, and making scientific workers be only under the administration and the top-down management.

The local government-run university and institute are also moving to a corporative management system as the state-run ones did, which also causes the infringements of the faculty members’ rights and status by forcedly carrying out the institutional integration and abolition, and the intensification of management.

In private university, their departments and courses have been becoming downsized and/or abolished on the pretext of the difficulty of university management on the basis of decreasing the number of incoming students and the competitions among universities, resulting in producing many cases of the infringements for faculty members' rights.

In private enterprise's management, the devastation of working place and technological discontinuity (because of many part-timers) and the competitive supremacy in the name of the market-orienting principle gave the corruption and lack of morals in all working places, resulting in a number of scandals and serious accidents, which have brought about a social anxiety.

In all working place, the continuous revision of labor-relating laws and then enforcement of competition have been become intensified, resulting in "dividing" and/ or "discrimination" in a competitive world. Consequently, not only general workers but also scientific workers have faced serious infringement for their rights as human beings,

2. Guarantee of scientific workers' right and status, and determination of their ethical code

Truth brought by scientific research activity is to be public and social in terms of the universal property for human kind, and truth therefore possesses the extremely higher cultural value. The Article 23 (of the Constitution of Japan) describes "Academic freedom is guaranteed". Academic freedom is based not only on the Constitution, but also on the cultural value that develops universal property for mankind. Academic freedom is the freedom for finding out truth and the freedom for carrying out the academic and intellectual research activity, which includes the freedom for an academic opinion, publication, and education and teaching of own academic opinion. Simultaneously, the meaning and purpose of academic research is to contribute to world peace and the development of human welfare, which is now a social consensus. Accordingly, all the scientific workers in charge of scientific activity are properly and seriously responsible for society, which has made clear on the basis of the scientific workers' movements and international discussions after the last war. Scientific workers' rights and status should therefore be appropriate to conducting the above activity. This is because they must carry out their social responsibility for finding truth, creating and applying technology, educating truth to citizens, and distributing truth to society,.

Their professional and scientific knowledge and technologies have contributed to world peace and mankind's welfare, while they might bring about a life-and-death effect on mankind, if misused them. Accordingly, scientific workers as profession should bear the properly ethical responsibility for society as professional gatherings and/or individuals. Scientific workers must impose a proper ethics on oneself, which is to utilize their research fruits to world peace and the development of mankind's welfare.

3. Declaration of rights and status and set of ethical code – its significance of the today

After the last war, the world scientific workers have endeavored to establish their rights and status appropriate to carrying out own social responsibility, and therefore set their own ethical code. In Japan, the Japan Science Council asked the government to establish “The basic law for scientific workers” that should be written their betterment of working conditions, uplift of their rights and improvement of research conditions (1962), and then published its companion volume “Scientist’s charter” that describes scientific workers’ obligation (1980).

Internationally speaking, the World Federation of Scientific Workers (WFSW) adopted in its inaugural assembly “Charter for scientific workers” that makes clear scientific workers’ rights and status, and ethics as well (1948), and also adopted “Declaration on the rights of scientific workers” (1969). UNESCO, in the 18th general assembly, adopted “Recommendation on the status of scientific researchers” that should legally be described in member states (1974). The World Conference on Science adopted “Declaration on science and the use of scientific knowledge” and “Science agenda – Framework for action” (1999).

However, Japan, regarding to scientific workers’ rights and status, and ethics, is extremely far from the contents described in the above recommendation and charter. In the beginning of the 21st century, the people place their great hope on the development of science and technology contributing to world peace and mankind’s welfare promotion, for which the roles of scientific workers become increasingly important for them to seriously respond to their confidence. The JSA, herewith, by succeeding to our predecessors’ historical legacy, wishes to publicize the documents, “The declaration of rights and status of researchers” and “The ethical code of researchers”, which are appealed to all scientific workers in and out the country. It is strongly advised that all the researchers should endeavor to establish their rights and status, and ethical code in order to fulfill their own social responsibility.

4. Object to which the documents apply

Since the JSA consists of a small part of scientific workers in the country, it may represent the limited number of scientific workers. But, we strongly desire to occupy an honor place in an international as well as national society striving for the preservation of peace in the presence of scientific knowledge production and scientific movement, for which we all have to establish scientific workers’ rights and status, and ethical code as well. True is that any scientific development is not expected in the absence of scientific workers’ rights and status, and ethics.

It is strongly advised that the above documents should be applied to most of people in charge of research, regardless of their post of institution, the form of its institution, the form of employment, belongings to scientific society, scientific study discipline such as human, social or natural science, research such as basic applied research, or technological development, and educational research such as theory or practical utilization.

Advised also is that the contents of the documents should take into account by establisher and administrator. Since most of scientific workers are belonging to respective research institute or educational organization, those establisher and administrator must therefore endeavor to make scientific development healthy. When they find the danger that science may be abused and/or misused, they promptly publicize all the information and simultaneously take an adequate action to improve such the fault. Therefore, the establisher and administrator, on their own initiative, must observe “ethical code of scientific workers” proposed here as an important criterion, and “rights and status of scientific workers” as well. They must make the contents of the documents known to all the scientific workers belonging to their research organizations.

On the other hand, the scientific workers belonging to private enterprises have long been excluded from the discussion “freedom of academic and research”, since the institutions in private enterprise have historically founded to maximize economical effect. However, all the research fruits should basically be to be public and social, and therefore must not lock in the flame only for pursuing the personal profit that should basically be reduced to the nation’s life. The researches and their fruits, and technology that are developed in private enterprise are indispensable for the nation’s life. Speaking to natural science, the number of scientific workers and their research budget occupies more than 70% of all the national scientific workers. They really consist of a social hierarchy. Basing upon the social influence of their presence, we like to strongly appeal all the scientific workers belonging to private enterprises to incorporate the documents and their contents into their institutes.

In the present-day Europe, the enterprises’ social responsibility has clearly been discussed. Although enterprises purpose to pursue their profit, they simultaneously must assume the responsibility for helping the nation’s life, preserving environment, improving the quality of their products, and keeping a better working condition. Thinking of the presently happened severe accidents, falsification and fabrication for scientific truth, enterprises’ scientific workers in question are accused of their observation of responsibility and ethics. Accordingly, we are advising, by overcoming many restrictions available, that the scientific workers working in private enterprises basically accept the documents for rights, status and ethics of researchers. It is highly expected that, by all scientific workers over the world, the documents sincerely be welcomed in their own style.

5. Policy documents

The JSA intends to publicize two documents, the version 5 of which is shown below.

The declaration of rights and status of researchers (ver. 5)

1. Guarantee of the fundamental human rights;

Researchers are guaranteed the fundamental human rights such as the right to live and civil rights, irrespective of thought, creed, sex, social status, institution, disorder and nationality,

2. Rights of seeking truth and publicizing the truth;

Researchers are entitled to seek truth and publicize the truth to the public. Also, they are entitled to criticize and accuse the concealment and falsification for the truth.

3. Rights of refusing and accusing the research in violation of humanity;

Researchers are entitled to refuse, criticize and accuse all the researches in violation of humanity.

4. Rights of enjoying satisfactory research condition;

Researchers are entitled to enjoy satisfactory research conditions that are necessary personnel, research funds, facilities, and healthy and safety.

5. Guarantee of status;

Researchers should be guaranteed the status suitable to them, which should not be diminished without fair reason.

6. Rights of receiving fair evaluation;

Researchers are entitled to receive fair evaluation. The evaluation should be objective, scientific and research-encouraged, and nor should be utilized for any discrimination in their status and/or treatment.

7. University autonomy and autonomous management of research institution;

University autonomy, and autonomous and independent management for all the research institutions are guaranteed, which should be maintained by the constant endeavor of the concerned in order to achieve a better condition. All the researchers are entitled to participate in research planning process.

8. Rights of educating successor;

Researchers are entitled to educate their successors, for which necessary conditions should be guaranteed.

The ethical code of researchers (ver. 5)

1. Contribution to constructing peace and welfare;

Researchers must conduct their works by awaking them to the meanings and objectives of scientific researches that contribute to constructing the world peace and human welfare. Researchers must not conduct any research in violation of humanity.

2. Contribution to developing science and technology;

Researchers must fight academic freedom, esteem creating research activity, and endeavor to comprehensively develop fundamental and applied sciences, and furthermore human, social and natural sciences.

3. Giving the research fruits to society;

Researchers must properly and honestly publicize all the research fruits.

4. Exclusion of an unfair practice;

Researchers, in case of publicizing research results, must not carry out an unfair practice such as fabrication, alteration and plagiarism. Researchers, by bowing to pressure and threat, must not represent research results falsely and voluntarily restraint on their publications. Researchers must not misappropriate research funds unjustly.

5. Self-pursuit of studies;

Researchers must keep highly scientific faithfulness and research quality. Researchers also share scientific knowledge each other, and grow themselves up through their objective and theoretical discussions.

6. Fair evaluations;

Researchers, in case of evaluating researchers with regard to article's review, degree's qualification, appointment and promotion, must keep fair attitude on the basis of scientific and professional points of view.

7. Exclusion of human rights' violation such as sexual discrimination;

Researchers, under institutional and educational environments, must not violate human rights such as sexual discrimination and harassment, and academic harassment. Researchers must not leave them as they are.

8. Deference to internationality;

Researchers, in deference to the worldwide expansion of science, should endeavor to exchange their views internationally. Researchers, by cooperating with the worldwide researchers, endeavor to improve researchers' status and to spread the ethical code regarding to researches.

9. Distribution of scientific spirit and knowledge;

Researchers should endeavor to distribute scientific spirit and knowledge, ring an alarm to neglecting and misusing science, and carrying out unscientific consideration. Researchers let people and administrations make no mistake in case of policy determination.

10. Succession of scientific attitude to the next generation;

Researchers should scientifically educate young researchers, which must be to cultivate their critical spirit on the basis of the significance and objective of scientific research.

11. Solidarity with the people;

Researchers, towards constructing world peace and realizing better human welfare, should endeavor to act in cooperation with the majority of the people.