

THE BULLETIN OF JSA

THE JAPAN SCIENTISTS' ASSOCIATION

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SYMPOSIUM "ATOMIC POWER GENERATION AND EARTHQUAKE" HELD

The Ishikawa branch and the committee of energy-atomic energy problem held the 30th Atomic power symposium "Atomic power generation and earthquake" in Kanazawa city on September 6-7, 2008 with about 180 participants from all over the country. The symposium had following sessions: "History and present status of atomic power generation", "Earthquake and atomic power generation, "Disaster, its prevention and atomic power generation". In the first session Dr. Noguchi (the Chair of the committee of energy-atomic energy problem) reported over 30 years activities of the committee. Dr. Motojima (Central Research Institute of Electric Power Industry, ret.) reported worldwide nuclear plant establishment and the export of nuclear plant by Toshiba, Mitsubishi and Hitachi companies and criticized that it introduces scramble of the nuclear fuel, nuclear proliferation and export of nuclear accident

Dr. Fukao (Shizuoka Univ. ret.) pointed out possibility to occur serious situation in the critical accident of No.1 reactor in Shiga nuclear plant and the danger of boiling water reactor under the insufficient safety measure. Dr. Iida (Ishikawa branch) reported that the concerted neighborhood action of 41 years in Ishikawa prefecture is action for democracy, right and life of the local resident and is still a stronghold to secure the security of the nuclear plant.

In the second session Dr. Kono (Kanazawa Univ. ret.) said that earth science research makes clear the characteristics of inland earthquake in time scale of several thousand years, but it is difficult to apply the result to short time scale. Taking account of Chuetsu-Oki earthquake Prof. Tateisi (Niigata Univ.) criticized the revised inspection guideline for design of an atomic power plant and pointed out necessity to discuss the interim report of the nuclear plant and to stop the operation of Kashiwazaki -Kariwa nuclear plant. Dr. Kodama (Ishikawa branch) criticized Hokuriku electric power company that unilaterally restarts the operation of the plant and Ishikawa prefecture government that follows to the company.

In the third session Prof. Murosaki (Kanseigakuin Univ.) pointed out that in the case of the fire of the Kashiwazaki-Kariwa nuclear plant there was the defectiveness that does not expect fire syndrome in large-scale earthquake. Dr. Tateno (Japan Atomic Energy Agency. ret.) analyzed the damage and breakdown of nuclear plants in earthquake and showed that the nuclear plant in long-term operation had more damage and breakdown.

In addition the following reports were presented. There is no measure for severe accident in the time of earthquake, people in Mihama Cho were astonished by an incorrect report of missile discharge, according to gathering of nuclear plant in Ishikawa Prefecture, the governor promotes to settle the Civil Protection Law.

The nuclear promotion group, which recognizes the Japanese nuclear plant is tough in earthquake, invites the interested persons of Asian countries to Kashiwazaki-Kariwa nuclear plant. There is a large gap of understanding on the nuclear plant disaster between the symposium participants and the group.

JSA SECRETARY-GENERAL DISAPPROVES ISRAELI TROOPS' INVASION INTO THE GAZA STRIPS

On January 14 Dr. Matsukawa, JSA secretary-general, disclosed his talk "We demand Israel immediately stops the attack on the Gaza Strips, and the US not to shoulder Israel's outrage" as follows.

Israeli troops are conducting indiscriminate and mass attack on cornered inhabitants since December 27, 2008. The press reports Palestinians killed were 900, injured at least 4000, of which a quarter was children. This violates international law. We demand Israel accepts the resolution of the UN Security Council to call for ceasefire.

We also demand immediate cessation of Hamas rocket attack. Only had Palestinian independence, human rights and autonomy of inhabitants be asserted by peaceful means, international voice would admit it, and support to promote the realization.

Israel even now ignores the borders determined by the UN resolution, enlarging settlement over there, containing Palestinian into the West Bank of Jordan River and the Gaza area, continuing to bear down them. That underlies the equation. Israel has to act ceasefire, immediate halt of settlement and exclusion of and oppression on Palestinian, approval of Palestinian nation, and then advance to the way of peaceful coexistence.

International community, which has to cooperate to settle the equation in this way, is seen to act as go-between for ceasefire. President Bush and the US Congress again support Israeli latest outrage. Such strategy must not be allowed, and mended at once. We claim President-elect Obama, who expressed to make an ultimate solution, should immediately develop effective diplomacy related to Israeli outrage just as he expressed.

For Japanese government, we demand, not to follow US's support for Israel as a party of military allies but to positively contribute for ceasefire and peace along the constitutional principles.

Respect of peace and human rights as the premise of the development of academic activities and education is accepted by every nation. The Japan Scientists' Association since its inauguration has set one of its sights on contribution to build peaceful and democratic society and respect human rights so as to perform social responsibility. From this standpoint we cannot accept Israeli military attacks on Gaza and call for immediate cession and radical solution.

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) SERIES SYMPOSIUM "EXPLORING THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE CONSTITUTION IN THE 21ST CENTURY (3)" HELD

The JSA ad-hoc research committee of the Japanese Constitution organized the above symposium, focusing on rights for freedom and social rights, on September 27, 2008. Prof. Usaki (Dokkyo Univ.) delivered a lecture on the actual state of rights for freedom investigating the regulation change of media and its effect on constitutionalism. Recently, he says, according to appearance of powerful media accompanied by development of capitalism, affirmative interference and involvement of the state have been requested to assure freedom of the press and realize *freedom*. To comprehend rights for freedom, thus, it is insufficient to only consider modern constitution subject to nonintervention of the state as a principle, and reconsideration of freedom of thought and expression traditionally regarded as passive ones is pressed for. Prof. Sasanuma (Shizuoka Univ.) argued over the possibility of social rights from the viewpoint of social exclusion and constitutionalism. He first explained that 1985 enactment of Manpower Dispatching Business Law melted away employment and actualized social exclusion, and the constitution scholarship studying resistance and authority constraint was regarded as *fig leaf of capitalism*

by leftists, social rights as *big burden* by liberalists. To rebuild, protect and actualize social rights, he concluded to assert the goal of social rights be to adjust conditions for individuals to freely seek their happiness in contraposition to liberalistic viewpoint of personal autonomy. In discussion, there was paused an opinion that affirmative interference and involvement of the state will be in danger for furthering unfreedom and unfairness of express considering that present states were never fair or disinterested.

2) ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMITTEE OF POLLUTION AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS

Pollution and environmental problems are very difficult to solve, because those caused by many factors: technology, government and economy. The committee of pollution and environmental problems is struggling to investigate problems such as global warming, various pollution, and illegal waste disposal, in recent years studying "precautionary principle and approach" in policy. On February 2, the committee held a symposium on food pollution, which people recently take a strong interest in especially the move plan of Tsukiji Fish Market, the biggest one in the world, to Toyosu area where the soil pollution was found. To examine the problem it raised the exploratory committee to investigate fish and sea food contaminated by toxic materials. The committee has organized two regular meetings and symposia every year. In this fiscal year, it held "The history and present situation of Niigata-Minamata disease" on September 7 in Niigata (cf. The Bulletin of JSA No.109), and "2nd Symposium of Food Pollution" on February 14, 2009 in Tokyo.

3) KYUSYU-OKINAWA SYMPOSIUM HELD

The Kyusyu-Okinawa symposium was held on October 4-5, 2008 at Kyusyu University. The first session was "Environment and peace of 21st century in Kyusyu and Okinawa". Mr. Kodama reported the erosion of the Miyazaki coast. The reason of the erosion is the cut off of sand stream by the breakwater construction. Installation of big concrete blocks to protect the erosion is planned with enormous budget. He said the lawsuit against the plan was brought. Prof. Kawano (Oita Univ.) presented a practice of the unique environment education on Ohno River. Mr. Managi (lawyer) reported that regeneration of Ariake-sea by the local residents and activation of their lives in nearby four prefectures made a big step by the winning of the Ariake-sea lawsuit. He said that the preservation of the Ariake-sea environment is the right of residents and they will make great effort to the regenerate Ariake-sea. Public work projects needing enormous expenditure destroy natural environment of rivers and seas, furthermore ad hoc constructions have deteriorated the circumstances.

The second session was "Military base problem and Japanese future". Prof. Kameyama (Ryukyu Univ.) reported the actual status of US military bases in Okinawa. Furthermore this actual status is forced during the US military transformation with involving the Self Defense Force. Prof. Tomizuka (Nagasaki Univ.) reported on the fiction and actuality of the missile defense plan. The missile defense budget exceeds seven hundred billion Yen in resent 5 years. He pointed out that the budget is not used effectively, but it was of benefit to the Japanese and American munitions industries. Prof. Kimura (Kagoshima Univ.) said that the United States, England and Japan are "evil axes" in the 21st century, which cause various worldwide problems after the 9.11 terrorism. He expressed that Japan should stand in starting point of the Japanese Constitution and should made effort for peace, humanity, environment, welfare and education.

In the general discussion necessity of accurate analysis of present status of the world including the present financial crisis by social science was pointed out. In addition it was clear the enormous waste of budget has been made in the field of military affair.

The third session was "Proper form of university". Prof. Masukawa (Kyoto Sangyou Univ.), the Nobel Prize winner, lectured his research history and emphasized that universities should perform the work of 50 and/or 100 years scale instead of the short-range work required in enterprises. A young researcher of tenure-equipped assistant reported unstable research conditions and the problem of the tenure post.

The fourth session was "Status and task of university". The maintenance of basic function of research and education becomes difficult in Kyushu University because of the labor cost reduction of stuffs.

In Ryukyu University there are moves to fire whole part-time language teachers, and abolish language study classes, and the status that scholastic ability of the graduate student decreased. The actual vivid status of "loss of publicity of university" at Kumamoto University and the detailed analysis on the influence of cutback in university budget in Miyazaki University were reported. We could multifariously and concretely understand the intensification of contradiction in universities. When thinking of the view of higher education, we need to take account of strengthening the university finance basis as well as the academic logic. In addition, considering the enormous expenditure and hard implementation of the missile defense, we must take action to require discontinuance of the missile defense plan and the increase of education budget.

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 OF SCIENCE-TECHNOLOGICAL POLICY

The symposium of science-technological policy entitled as "Crisis of scientific technique in Japan and job shortage for postdoctoral" were held on November 16 at Koshiba-Hall, University of Tokyo.

Prof. Koshiba (Emeritus Professor of University of Tokyo), researcher of neutrino won a Nobel prize (physical science), first addressed the commemoration lecture. He pointed out the significance of basic sciences like as neutrino research, and said "It is unreasonable to request practical profit to basic sciences. The research of basic sciences should be supported not by private enterprise but by the state. The nation taking no thought for basic sciences is not called a civilized one." The symposium adopted an appeal "employment, improvement of research and labor conditions for postdoctoral are the emergent challenge." Participants confirmed that this challenge has a relation not only with lives of parties concerned but with the future of science and technology in Japan, and corporation of related groups and individuals is required to settle. One of participants voiced that postdoctoral researchers, compelled to seek new jobs in years, can not settle down to research, and that blocks the development of science as well as takes toll on the society.

2) SYMPOSIUM "SURVIVE SAFELY IN THE 21ST CENTURY" HELD

The Kinki district (5 prefectures: Kyoto, Nara, Osaka, Wakayama and Hyogo) organized a district symposium "Survive safely in the 21st century – aiming to establish society independent of fossil fuel and nuclear power generations" as a pre-symposium for the 17th Comprehensive Scientific Study Convention of JSA on September 20 in Kyoto City. The venue was the Kyoto International Community House next to the Keage Hydroelectric Power Plant, Japan's first commercial hydroelectric facility.

The JSA this term brought up three themes surveying the 21st century, (a) a view on Constitution, (b) a view on society and (c) a view on academic system. The symposium focused on (c). Three lectures concerning the global warming and the energy causing it, which were the basis of this view, were delivered.

Dr. Matsukawa (the secretary-general of the JSA, oceanography) reported that the increase of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere caused the global warning showing clear data. He was quite emphatic in denying various skeptical views and expressed his view that the key to prevent the global warming was the advisability of reducing carbon oxide emission in industries and transportation in the country.

Prof. Ueda (Kyoto Univ., environmental economics) pointed out that global warming prevention needed to transform our society culturally and historically by citing the strategy of EU that the environmental load was separated from economical development. He touched upon "employment without environmental destruction" as a typical instance of the strategy. He introduced the livelihood

improvement movement based on his experience in a certain local city in China where people collected methane gas to utilize as fuel. He emphasized that it is important to see things from the view to improve livelihood quality for global warming prevention.

Dr. Wada (citizen group to spread natural energy) argued his position of the phase-out of nuclear energy and raised the reduction of wasteful energy consumption for industrial production depending on exportation by placing great weight on agriculture and forestry. He also emphasized that it is necessary for citizens to take deep interest in the process to produce natural energy and to make the energy production socialize for global warming prevention. Finally he emphasized the necessity to spread the utilization of geographically-distributed small natural energy. This action would open the way to prevent wars for energy sources.

3) 2ND BRANCH LECTURE HELD IN MIYAGI

The Miyagi branch lecture was organized on December 4, 2008 as a pre-symposium for the 17th Comprehensive Scientific Study Convention (CSSC) in Nagoya. The first lecture was "Cozy place for aged people" by Mr. Miyata (branch member). Aged people without retirement home are increasing because they have no place where they spend a cozy day. Thinking as cozy places ones including community places and enjoyable working sites, he proposed reorganizing local community of primary school precinct scale, in which all inhabitants including the aged participate, and neighborhood associations of thousand inhabitants scale managing weeds. And he gave a suggestion to increase workplaces of small production type as comfortable places. Then customers would be able to make a detailed order and ask repair, diversified places for young and elder people made, he said.

The second lecture was given by Mr. Iwabuchi on policy formation in city redevelopment decision of two cities, positive or negative for merger. What he addressed was how policy could divert from international competitive edge, the principle of the market economy, and mergers of local governments which the national land planning advances, to independence of local governments and area redevelopment. In his report of cases in Tohoku district, mergers of local governments since 1980 has been considered as the road to activate local economics through enhancing international competitiveness in depopulation and ageing, the argument has focused only on economic efficiency without regarding the history and identity of locality. We are losing leaders for redevelopment of locality, he said. He stressed finally that the international competitiveness is not all, area redevelopment should depend on industry coherent to life in locality, conventional artifice, history and land independently of external force, and every local area has its proper materials conducive to community development.

4) SYMPOSIUM "THINKING OF WASTE PROBLEM THROUGH GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT"

The Hyogo branch on November 15, 2008 in Kobe held the above symposium. In the morning session Prof. Goto (branch member) first summarized eight years of Basic Law for Promoting to Establish Sustainable Society enacted in 2000. Secondly Prof. Fukumoto (environmental conservation technology) explained recent dominant formula in Japan, namely, measure of Ministry of the Environment which disposes of waste by burning in furnace of big scale, and why dioxin concentration in air cannot be diminished. The third lecture by Prof. Ikada was concerned with history of *best materials* science, plastic in petro chemistry and organochlorine compounds in caustic chemistry such as DDT, PVC, and PCB, and he also voiced against automatic separation of plastic using high tech. In the afternoon session participants learned real status of intermediate treatment in plastic recycle. They found solidification of plastic wastes using taxpayer's money 4 times more than usual disposal. In the process to compress these composites various VOC (Volatile Organic Compounds) come out, in fact VOC victims in the vicinity of a waste disposal plant in Neyagawa City filed an appeal, said Mr. Nagano (society for health protection). Ms. Takatani (society for drinking water protection) reported the problem of malodor and water pollution caused by industrial waste disposed of 30 years ago at a valley bottom in Shiga Prefecture. Mr. Yoshikawa reported the development of the system of pay designated garbage bag and disposition of

income.

5) 14TH SHIKOKU DISTRICT SYMPOSIUM HELD

The symposium was held on November 15, 2008, at Ehime University, with title "Issues and universities in regions". Titles and speakers were as follows:

- (a) "Medical services in Ehime Prefecture under the structural reform in medical services" by Mr. Tominaga (medical cooperative society)
- (b) "Advanced struggle of non-permanent employee in Tokushima and questioned attitude of companies" by Prof. Yoshida (Fac. Integrated Arts and Science, Tokushima Univ.)
- (c) "University reformation in Kochi Prefecture" by Tamaki (Kochi Junior College)
- (d) "Separation of education and research in a local university" by Fukai (Fac. Agriculture, Kagawa Univ.)
- (e) "The moves of finance of national university corporation, the case of Ehime University" by Obuchi (Fac. Law and Letters, Ehime Univ.)

First two presentations discussed the progress of serious situation, called annihilation of local medical services raised by curtailment of social security expenses, and impoverishment advancing and movement against it in locality viewing the case of a company which broke its promise to change non-permanent employees to permanent. The latter discussed the move to realign and unify of universities in Kochi, establish a new education-research fabric in Kagawa University, and a severe case raised by curtailment of operating subsidy in Ehime University.

6) STUDY TOUR TO INVESTIGATE PURE FOREST OF TIGER TAIL SPRUCE IN THE FOOTHILLS OF MT. FUJI

The group of individual members of the Tokyo, Yamanashi and neighboring branches organized a study tour to investigate the pure forest of Harimomi (tiger tail spruce woods, *Picea Torano*) on October 11-12 at Oshino and Yamanakako Villages, Yamanashi Prefecture, in the foothills of Mt. Fuji. Harimomi designated as the natural monument is native to Japan, distributed to the south of Fukushima prefecture. Harimomi is not very uncommon, the pure forest is observed only in this area. The forest is formed on the lava flow of Mt. Fuji, around 250 years old. The tour was guided by Dr. Suzuki (Yamanashi Univ., ret.) and Prof. Takeuchi (Yamanashi Univ.), who had been engaged in the preservation and regeneration of the forest for years, since trees standing death were now remarkably seen. The 30 m tall and 1 m across big trees attracted members. They visited the hotel to see the trees which Dr. Suzuki had been looking after them with loving care from seeds.

Members enjoyed a night session after dinner. Mr. Hashimoto (Tokyo branch) showed the DVD on the climate change which the informal gathering for discussion on pollution and global environment problems had just accomplished to produce. He also gave a lecture on the reducing carbon oxide emission. Prof. Takeuchi (plasma physicist, Yamanashi branch) introduced his tackling a task of preservation and regeneration of Harimomi pure forest, introducing his experience as a member of the wintering party in the Atlantic at the Showa Station, showing beautiful pictures of aurora he observed at Showa base in Antarctica.

Next day members made a field trip to look for the lava tree mold in the Kitafuji maneuvering ground, which is a hole produced after a tree locked into lava was burned down. They searched around the Japanese pampas grass field dotted with Japanese emperor oaks. They finally in 30 minutes found the large mold which was 5 meter depth enough to keep a man standing there. Members fully enjoyed two days trip.

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