

THE BULLETIN OF JSA

THE JAPAN SCIENTISTS' ASSOCIATION

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POSTDOC FORUM "TO RESOLVE THE PROBLEMS OF YOUNG RESEARCHERS" HELD

On December 5 the forum was held just at the time that the administrative renovation council conducted "budget screening" to make deep cut in the areas of academic and science-technology researches (including backup for young and women researchers) and Nobel laureates demurred at the screening. It was jointly organized by JSA and several labor unions of university staff and graduate students association. Today most young researchers with PhD are working under unstable labor conditions as postdoctoral fellows, part-time teachers, term-based assistants, detached researchers and so on. They are called highly-educated working poor. According to unstable conditions, high school expenditures and scholarship obliged to repay, feeling apprehension about employment, students abandon to proceed to graduate school are increasing. The executive committee concerns that these circumstances cast dark cloud to the development of academic study and science-technology of Japan. Thus on November 16 in 2008 it held a symposium entitled "Crisis of science and technology and Postdoctoral problem".

The present forum was organized as a pre-symposium for coming symposium held in May, 2010. A recommendation "To settle young researcher problem" was offered by Dr. Saito (Faculty and Staff Union of Japanese Universities), and then a lecture "Measure concerned groups are thinking" was given by Mr. Enoki (president, NPO Science Communication), in which an advanced example in France was presented. After speeches on the actual status of part-time teachers and Karo-shi (death from overwork), participants voiced as follows: "It is significant to gain a public understanding about research activities"; "Every university should reflect on its having uncritically accepted the policy with overriding priority to graduate school of Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology"; "I want full-time teachers to together share our anxiety". To settle such a nationwide problem it needs to convey to the public that thinking people have raised their voices and taken actions against the policy of the central government.

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 ACTIVITIES OF THE RESEARCH COMMITTEE OF SYMBIOTIC SOCIETY

The committee held a regular meeting on November 30 at Kyoto University Hall. Prof. Ueda (Kyoto Univ.) now investigates the medium-term goal that Hatoyama Cabinet hammered out in the task force for trial calculation of economical effect in measures against global warming, in particular, whether 25% green house gas reduction from the 1990 year norm is possible or not, and the foundation to work out 36-Yen burden to every household. For his report some suggestions were made: it is hard to investigate holding

the framework of the Liberal Democratic Party and Komeito coalition government, and the report stance of mass-communication without independent decision is problematic. And it was indicated that in Denmark and Germany local governments carries out energy policy, while in Japan the central government does such a policy as atomic energy, which perhaps hampers advancement. Prof. Takehama (Ritsumeikan Univ.) talked about the policy of Germany to promote and popularize solar and wind power generators and its difference from that of Japan, making an outlook for the future. As he pointed out, in Germany the firm price purchase system was established through the law of electricity supply (1990), the law of regenerable energy (2001), and law revision (2001), supply of regenerable energy such as wind, biomass, and solar has been increased. In Japan manufacturers will not actively product such power generating systems unless the stability of firm price purchase system is secured.

2) THE ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMITTEE OF SCIENTISTS' RIGHTS

The committee has worked on advocating rights of researchers in and outside JSA, which mean scientists, technicians, educators and ones who are engaged in study, education, and science-technology in other areas, and establishment of positions and ethics for them. It has contributed to such movements by taking action to restore positions, summarizing movements, practices, and theoretical accomplishments of home and foreign. The committee, summing up several opinions expressed in lots of symposia, submitted "scientific workers' ethical code" and "declaration of scientific workers' rights and status" to the 40th general assembly of JSA (May 31, 2009). Though they were not accepted, their gist was acceded as one of terms in the assembly declaration and appeal.

The structural improvement having been raging in the 1990s stressed international competitive ability as a national policy, and urged academic activities to depend on industry along the line of "Nation-building on the basis of science and technology". That induced a great distortion in research and development of technology in Japan. On account of the today's circumstances the committee reconfirms that JSA should reconsider "rights, positions, and ethics" as a pressing issue and intends to arrange the consensus-building.

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) ARTICLE 9 FORUM IN KANAGAWA

The Kanagawa branch and Kanagawa scientist group of Article 9 held 12th Kanagawa Forum of Article 9 of the constitution on November 1, 2009 at Tsurumi University, Yokohama with 39 participants including 11 high school students. At the forum the over 4-year activity from the forming of the forum was reported. In the activity the approval person and total of the fund-raising had reached 168 and 1,020,000 Yen, respectively. Next Dr. Onuma (physicist, emeritus professor of Keio Univ.) presented a lecture entitled "Nuclear disarmament and the Constitution of Japan". He explained the preamble of the Constitution and introduced the drastic movement of the nuclear disarmament since the birth of U.S. President Obama. Furthermore he introduced the Hiroshima-Nagasaki declaration, the Russell-Einstein declaration and the Yukawa-Tomonaga declaration and also the backward movement against the disarmament. He also mentioned the future movement like NPT (Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty) review conference to be held in May 2010. "Umbrella theory of nuclear weapon" of the Japanese government becomes the big interference for the destruction of nuclear weapon. It is shy thing and is to be hard to permit. He appealed that we don't leave the disarmament to Obama and we will think the actions by ourselves and will execute them. He lastly introduced Yukawa's word "If one will try to escape despair, one has to recover the belief that future is not mere extension of past and there is the place where the completely new possibility been actualized between past and present".

2) SYMPOSIUM "THE TRANSFORMATION OF UNIVERSITY AFTER THE SHIFT TO INCORPORATED ADMINISTRATIVE AGENCY AND ITS FUTURE" IN TOHOKU DISTRICT

Tohoku district held a symposium with the above title on November 7 through 8, 2009 in Sendai, Miyagi Prefecture. Five years passed since the shift and next year we meet the second period of medium-term goal. In this time the executive committee arranged the symposium to aim of reviewing actual states of universities and grope a road to ameliorate.

In his keynote speech Prof. Shimizu (Miyagi branch) explained the phenomena of institutionalization, that is, withdrawal of the faculty meeting from administration, authority concentration to college president, from which the staff has been forced to enter into fund raising competition, thus university is losing its allure. He added, however, that even in the form of agency the faculty meeting could be rebuilt to participate in the university administration. Reports subsequently provided from Tohoku University and Iwate University state that in both universities budget allocations are inclined to base on amplifying and estimating competitive funds. In the second day reports on cooperation of three universities in North Tohoku district and the realignment and integration of educational faculties were presented and the actual state of teacher training in university and its future prospects were examined through the reports. In the session "University – the significance of regional alignment" cooperation of Yamagata University and Yamagata educational board was reported. The cooperation purposes for establishing a graduate school for persons experienced in teaching. Another report on regional alliance in Fukushima Prefecture was also presented.

3) REPORT OF AUTUMN RESEARCH EXCHANGE MEETING IN OKINAWA

JSA Okinawa branch held an "Autumn Research Exchange Meeting" on 12 November 2009. In this session, the keynote statements were Prof. Kameyama's "Immediate Report on Success in the Awase Tidal Flats Landfill Suit", and Prof. Nakachi's "The Significance and Challenges of the Okinawa Regional Government Forum's Proposals." We would like to report on the regional government system at this time.

When the LDP-Komeito coalition government first mentioned introducing the new system for regional governments, it took it for granted that Okinawa prefecture would be part of the "Kyushu region". However, some Okinawans such as intellectuals, local officials, business leaders, and labor leaders were critical of this, feeling that it was another example of Okinawa's future being decided by outsiders, as had happened with the annexation of Ryukyu by Japan in 1879 and the separation of Okinawa from Japan under the San Francisco Treaty of Peace with Japan. They established the "Okinawa Regional Government Forum" in August 2007, and Professor Nakachi has been its director ever since. Their proposal is that the new regional government system should not be used for streamlining administrative matters or for reducing budget deficits, but rather should refer to a quasi-federalist system. Also, the regional government system should be used to strengthen the welfare state, and create a "One state, many policies" system. Okinawa seeks to become a "special autonomous region" of Japan with strong administrative, judicial, and immigration powers. They suggested such a system, but have not yet created detail proposals. Prof. Nakachi also noted that there had not yet been enough discussion concerning criticisms of the proposal that focuses on the issues of discarding financial deficits, widening regional differences, and complaints by economic leaders.

It is not yet clear how the change of government will affect the regional government system, but how it affects us is in our hands; the key is how willing the Okinawan people are engaged in grass-roots activities in support. After his speech, we had a very lively discussion on it. From the discussion, it gives us the impression that we need to discuss the issue more. In the next session, we would like to have an opposition researcher come to discuss this matter.

4) REGULAR MEETING "AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT ON RECLAIMED LAND AT ISAHAYA BAY" IN FUKUOKA

Kyushu University chapter held the 2nd regular meeting on Dec. 8, 2009 at Hakozaki Campus of Kyushu University. The executive committee invited Prof. Takagi (Kyushu Univ.) to give a lecture about the agriculture on reclaimed land at Isahaya Bay.

Since April, 2008 some farmers were settled on the reclaimed land, they aim at large-scale mechanized agriculture. But in Japan such large-scale agriculture except rice farming has scarcely been experienced. Prof. Takagi is afraid that various agricultural problems such as disease of farm products will occur therein. The developer mentions in a brochure that we need not be afraid of harmful insects and disease of farm products because the reclaimed land is virgin soil. The professor has been studying aphids, virus vector, in large-scaled farming. According to his research at Isahaya, a great deal of aphids came into existence in April, while they disappeared in autumn. It might be attributable to outbreak of natural predators. As for plants around the field it is necessary to seek not only the variety but plants to play a role to reserve natural enemies like as colza or tansy. Prof. Takagi thinks that the countermeasure against harmful insects and disease was just started to take steps, furthermore there are some problems in production adjustment on the reclaimed land especially because of potato monoculture.

5) 38TH ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATION LECTURE MEETING IN FUKUI

The Fukui branch held the above lecture meeting on December 19, 2009 at Fukui University, where Dr. Bando (physicist) gave a lecture “Leaping science: the Nobel Prize scientists of the forefront”. In spite of bad weather about 30 persons attended. After the opening addresses of Dr. Yamamoto (representative secretary of the Fukui branch) and Prof. Suzuki (Fukui Univ.) Dr. Bando mentioned that science is like as a mystery. The processes are i) a crime occurs, ii) guess a criminal (hypothesize), iii) investigate evidences, iv) identify the criminal, v) predict a crime, vi) the crime occurs, and vii) decide the criminal (truth). It takes 10 to 100 years to identify a criminal. After the solution of a crime, then a new mystery will begin. Dr. Bando explained Yukawa’s meson theory, Sakata’s model and Kobayashi-Maskawa theory. She emphasized the Yukawa’s spirit, that is old and young generations are equal from the standpoint to inquire truths. She also mentioned that the spirit is most important to investigate unknown field and became the enterprising spirit that goes over the wall among areas and the border. She pointed out that the increase of the Nobel Prize winner in Japan where the modern science had started lately from Western Europe due to the extending of Yukawa’s spirit.

6) REGULAR MEETING “THINKING OF IMPROVEMENT OF JAPANESE AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SELF-SUFFICIENCY RATIO UNDER WTO SYSTEM” IN YAMAGATA

The Yamagata branch held a regular meeting on October 31 at Tsuruoka campus (Faculty of agriculture) of Yamagata University, where Prof. Sunggak (Yamagata Univ.) gave a lecture entitled above. The theme was the second issue of a series “Thinking of the improvement of the food self-sufficiency rate”. The first one was “forage rice plant and forage rice grain” discussed last year. The following were his explanation about the present situation of food problems. We are apt to have concern about the safety. However another issue is the stable supply and the present situation is unpredictable. Now Japan depends largely on China for the import of food. It may happen that China can not export food to Japan in future judging from the situation of agriculture and farmers in China. He also pointed out that the present situation continued to give a great deal of damage to full-time rice farmers, because the change of another crops from rice has hardly proceed in spite of overproduction of rice. Then he introduced the details of discussion and the back ground of WTO. Exporters of agricultural products were severely suffering from the agricultural depression due to the international low price caused by the overproduction, and also the increase of a subsidy from the government for agriculture made the country’s domestic finances take a turn for the worse. In order to resolve the situation these countries aimed to improve the agricultural products prices and reduce a subsidy. Finally, he concluded that Japanese agricultural administration needed to press forward in with the production and the supply of agricultural products the people demanded besides rice, and also needed to develop the change in agricultural policy which promotes

“phase-out of rice” and produces such a product now depending highly on the importation.

Participants started a discussion about the relation between “overproduction of agricultural products” and “starving population around nine hundred million”, “phase out of rice” and “expanding consumption of rice” and so on. The Yamagata branch makes a fresh resolve to arrange a plan to think of the improvement of food self-sufficiency rate from now on.

JSA^{NOW}
Briefings from organizers

HEADQUARTERS

1) The headquarters organized a symposium "Japanese role to make the year 2010 a turning point for peace" on March 13 in Tokyo. Five speakers provided reports or comments: a) Prof. Kimura (Kagoshima Univ.) "Bona fides and deception of President Obama"; b) Prof. Maeda (Tokyo Intl. Univ.) "The 50 years of Japan-US security treaty"; c) Dr. Konno (Yokohama Univ., ret.) "US military bases in Kanagawa Prefecture and Federation of Societies to take away US military bases from Japan"; d) Prof. Kameyama (Ryukyu Univ.) "Taking away the U.S. Marine Corps' Futenma Air Station on Okinawa Island and repealing the law to facilitate transformation of US bases in Japan"; e) Dr. Arai (Ibaraki Univ., ret.) "The 100 years since Japan's annexation of the Korean Peninsula".

2) The committee of problems of engineers and scientists in private firms held a symposium concerning actual situations of science and technology at the workplace and at home on March 14 in Tokyo. Three speakers provided subjects for that theme: a) Dr. Osada (chair) "Merits and demerits of budget screening (cost-cutting)"; b) Ms. Nishida "The trial of a Chinese postdoc died from overwork in a pharmaceuticals corporation and reconciliation"; c) Dr. Kushimoto "Overwork and suicide of software workers and dispatched workers".

3) The JSA ad hoc committee of the Constitution organized a symposium "Exploring the significance of the Constitution in the 21st century (6)" on March 20, Tokyo. Dr. Utagawa (Advanced Industrial Science and Technology) delivered a lecture "Issues in damage and measure of global warming", and Prof. Kambe (Niigata Univ.) a lecture "Argument about environment right and the future" from the standpoint of jurisprudence.

4) On March 21 at University of Electro-Communications the section of academic system organized a symposium on university problems, which was to discuss desired image of university since the transition of state university to independent administrative agency. Delivered lectures were: a) Prof. Nagayama "Problems a regional university meets since becoming an independent administrative agency"; b) Prof. Hirose (Toyama Univ.) "The current status of Toyama University after the transition"; c) Prof. Matsumaru (Chuo Univ.) "Decision making of a private university after the transition"; d) Dr. Saito (Gunma Univ., ret.) "On highly educated working poor – its origin, present state and resolution"; e) Dr. Matsukawa (ex JSA secretary general) "The lesson from pro democracy struggle in university".

5) The research committee of foodstuff problems held a symposium on tasks Japanese certification system of agricultural products meets, where Mr. Matsumoto (Japan Organic & Natural Foods Association) was invited to clarify the tasks on March 27, Tokyo.

6) JSA and its friendly organizations held a symposium to investigate policies of the Government Democratic Party won on March 28, Tokyo. Four talks were made: a) Prof. Ozawa (Jikei University School of Medicine) "The political method of the new government from the viewpoint of peace and democracy"; b) Prof. Ando (emeritus professor, Shizuoka Univ.) "From the viewpoint of Japanese tax system"; c) Prof. Mikami (Meiji Univ.) "From the viewpoint of educational policy"; d) Dr. Matsui (Advanced Industrial Science and Technology, ret.) "From the viewpoint of the policy of science and technology".

KINKI DISTRICT

On March 15 at Lake Biwa campus, Ritsumeikan University the young members of JSA organized the 2010 Spring School, where they exchanged their research experiences.

MIYAGI BRANCH

The branch held the 5th branch lecture on April 10 in Sendai, where Prof. Tsunashima gave a lecture with the title "The mechanism in France creates delicious foods – Agriculture and farming community full of vitality".

TOKYO BRANCH

- 1) The 34th Hachioji science forum was held on March 11. Mr. Yoshida (chief lawyer for plaintiff of Mt. Takao case) talked his feelings for Mt. Takao, citizens' favorite mount near Tokyo.
- 2) On March 20 the Machida Study Forum held a regular meeting, inviting Dr. Imamiya (ex JSA representative secretary) to give a lecture on Japan-US Security Treaty and currency problem between Japan and US.
- 3) The 78th new peace colloquium was held on March 26, where Prof. Kaneko (constitutionalist, Risho Univ.) delivered a lecture on the basic of the Japanese Constitution.
- 4) Science committee organized a mini-symposium with the theme "The responsibility and rights of researchers and educators – For social development and people's expectation". Two lectures were given: a) Dr. Ishiwatari (JSA executive secretary) "Involving dismissal casus of Ms. Kinugawa – Investigating the background of dismissal from the standpoint of usurpation"; b) Dr. Osada (branch representative secretary) "Thinking of responsibility of academic researchers".
- 5) The group of individual members organized the spring field work at Koishigawa Botanical Garden, Tokyo, on April 3. They enjoyed a lecture by Dr. Iwashina (Tsukuba Botanical Garden).

SHIGA BRANCH

On March 22 the branch held a civic lecture meeting, where Dr. Takatani (paediatrician) delivered a lecture "How did human species become human beings?" in relation to the problem of handicapped children.

Kyoto branch

- 1) On March 5 at the branch office the branch held a meeting to read two articles of Muraguchi and Shimo appeared in JJS, vol.45(2) guided by Prof. Sokawa and Dr. Suzuki.
- 2) On March 13 at Kyoto University the branch organized the 28th Kyoto Comprehensive Scientific Study Convention with the title "Talking about the 21st century". The following lectures were delivered: a) Prof. Makino (Kansai Society of Materialism Study) "Justice and peace in the 21st century – right of peaceful life"; b) Dr. Utami (Japan Institution of Construction Engineering) "Land and disasters in the 21st century"; c) Prof. Wada (Ritsumeikan Univ.) "Environment and Energy in the 21st century"; d) Prof. Yoneda (Chuo Univ.) "Society and economics in the 21st century"; e) Prof. Ishii (Nagoya Univ.) "Education and university in the 21st century".
- d) On April 9 the branch held a meeting to read following two articles, which was guided by Prof. Yamamoto and Prof. Sokawa: a) Prof. Kodama "Sexual autonomy for handicapped child and human rights in education – The case for the sex education of Nanao Special Education Highschool" in JJS, vol.44(12); and b) Prof. Horio "Constitution and education – Education as human right and people's right to education" in JJS, vol.45(3).

OSAKA BRANCH

- 1) The dialectic champuru (hotchpotch) study group held a regular meeting on March 8 at the branch office,

where Prof. Ueno gave a lecture on Hegel's philosophy and Prof. Ise on the study of Gramsci.

2) The 10th Science Café was held on March 13 at Nakazaki-Dori mall, where Prof. Nagano (Osaka Univ.) gave a lecture on the human amusing character of mutual cooperation.

3) The 11th Science Café was held on March 20 at Nakazaki-Dori mall, where Prof. Sugita (Osaka Univ.) gave a lecture entitled "Thinking the modern society from the viewpoint of sleeping".

4) The branch held Osaka Social Forum with the theme "Another world is possible" on March 21 in Osaka. Lectures on highly educated working poor and Kitashiba in Minou City as another Osaka were given.

5) The 12th Science Café was held on March 27 at Nakazaki-Dori mall, where Prof. Baba (Mukogawa Women's Univ.) demonstrated and instructed some amusing experiments for children.

6) The study group of "Capitalism" held a regular meeting on April 2 at the Osaka branch office, where participants read Chapters 2 and 3 of Marx's *The Capital*.

7) The study group Hegel's *the Great Logic* held a regular meeting on April 3. Drs. Makino, Ueda, and Ito presented reports referring to Section 121 of Hegel's *the encyclopedia of logic*.

FUKUOKA BRANCH

Branch's environmental study group and related regional groups held 1st symposium on natural circulation, where Mr. Someya (architect) and Mr. Takamatsu (hot spring resort manager) made opinions on life using wood and Prof. Sato (forestry policy, Kyushu Univ.) gave a lecture on woods in Japan.

ARTICLES OF "JOURNAL OF JAPANESE SCIENTISTS"

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