

THE BULLETIN OF JSA

THE JAPAN SCIENTISTS' ASSOCIATION

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LET US STOP PUTTING THE "GROWTH STRATEGY" OF ABENOMICS INTO PRACTICE AND STRENGTHEN OUR NATIONAL SOLIDARITY AGAINST IT FOR OUR DAILY LIVES.

The stock prices of Japan went up rapidly and the price of the yen turned to a marked depreciation because of an excessive ease of monetary policy and big public spending by the actions of Abenomics. Expectations of a recovery for the Japanese economy are coming up to the most investors, securities corporations, export-oriented big businesses and general contractors. However, our national standard of living and lives have become more unstable and been near in crisis by joining the TPP negotiations; making the Livelihood Protection Act change in worse; a destruction of employment by trying to introduce a new system of limited number of full time workers in workshops; and a move to re-operate nuclear power plants after the East Japan Great Disaster in March, 2011. Abenomics may have achieved good results in a short term, but we must never misunderstand the essence of "Growth Strategy" of it, because it will try to encourage only the growth of global enterprises but never think of the welfare of all national lives.

"The lost 20years" of Japanese economy was mainly caused by the current behavior of export-oriented big businesses which led the postwar Japan to the economic growth, as well as the policy of the Japanese government, because the former have started to produce and set up international subcontracting system in newly developed countries, and the latter has enforced to do the neo-liberal structural reforms in our country. The global big businesses now reduce and reorganize domestic production and eagerly produce in newly developed countries. They lower the level of wages in their enterprises and destroy the domestic employment to strengthen their international competitiveness. They also strongly demand to dismantle the social security system, reduce the level of corporate tax rate, and raise consumption tax rate in Japan. The interests of global big business are fundamentally contradicting with those of all national economic lives in Japan now. Abenomics never draws a moral from "the lost 20 years" on Japanese economy and sticks to the "Growth Strategy" for global enterprises. This economic policy is very unstable therefore we have to demand a dramatic change of it and ask for a better economic policy management for our daily lives.

There are quite a few problems before us to get out of the postwar Japanese social system which has long been dependent on the big businesses. These are as follows: tackling to the problems of one-sided concentration of money, goods, and people to big cities, especially to Tokyo; creation of a local economy based on circulation within it; an improvement of power relations between big and small businesses; a reduction in the number of contingent workers, long working hours and raising the level of low wages; and a dramatically change of Japanese budget structure in order to expand the system for social security and welfare.

We need a nation-wide discussion for the future of Japanese society and the formation of a national consensus to attain this. The Japan Scientists' Association, as one of the inter-disciplinary Societies in Japan, expresses our opinion that we will participate in and contribute to the development of a nation-wide discussion for a new Japanese society in closer cooperation with other academic societies.

May 26, 2013

The 44th General Conference of the Japan Scientists' Association

***WE IMPEACH THE EXECUTIVE OF APF FOR THE UNFAIR LAWSUIT
FOR PROTECTION OF THE FREEDOM OF ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES
AND PUBLISHING RESEARCH RESULTS***

Professor I. Nonaka (Meiji Univ.) wrote a paper “Injustice finance and the trouble of Showa Rubber Co.” *Economics* No.6, 2011, and submitted a written opinion “About the management trouble in Showa Rubber that Asia Partnership Fund (APF) caused” to Tokyo Labor-relations Board. On July 18, 2012 the executive of APF filed a defamation suit against the professor for exposing their troubles, demanding 55 million yens as compensation and published apology. We determine the suit is an unfair suit.

The paper of Nonaka points out what the executive of APF and Showa Rubber Co. conducted is suspected to be fictitious capital increase and loans through academic investigation based on facts, and Financial Services Agency and Securities and Exchange Surveillance Commission has the responsibility of regulating such a conduct that might harm the normal development of business economics. Acceptance of such an unfair lawsuit to demand expensive compensation for academic papers brings about a serious situation that researchers could not publish their criticisms and findings. Black corporations in the U.S. and some countries recently filed suits for journalists and lawyers criticized them to silence their critics burdening an expensive cost. That is known as SLAPP (Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation). SLAPP has run into problem. APF’s case is very typical in Japan, which should not be permitted.

So as to use for human beings by advancing the proper development the JSA has been striving principally with those who interfere with scientific development. The 44th General Assembly of the Japan Scientists' Association condemns the unfair lawsuit APM and Showa Rubber Co. filed against Prof. Nonaka and calls on researchers and scientists to solidarise for protecting the freedom of academic activities and publishing academic results.

May 26, 2013

The 44th General Assembly of the Japan Scientists' Association

EAST JAPAN DISASTER: THINK THE VICTIMS AND DISASTER AREA FIRST

More than two years have passed since the disaster, and people are forgetting about the damage which people in the area are still suffering. As a result, the *fukkou*, the recovery process, has become slow, staggering for a long time. The followings are the reasons why the recovery process has been slow. Overall the recovery process administered by the national and local governments have been based on the large corporation policy, which neglects the essential human right, but profit-oriented. Poorly conditioned temporary housings, the construction of mega-shopping malls, which the residents obviously do not need, are observed while we can observe budget cut for the supporting project such as providing counseling and psychotherapies in the disaster areas, and releasing the fishing rights to non-fishermen.

Disaster recovery project has always given a priority to large corporate project. The majority of the recovery projects are mega projects, having large corporation involved. Cleaning of debris as well as building of temporary housings have been conducted by large corporations. Likewise, the government has set up the Project of Tohoku Megabank for medical cares, ignoring what the local people need to get recovered from the damage. Besides, ILC (International Linear Collider Projects) as well as the construction plan for mega-city— these are a few examples of the recovery projects which neglect the ‘real’ recovery for local people.

A large number of small fishing villages along the ria coast were swept away by Tsunami. Those who should be saved are the residents of the small villages. Remaining residents of those damaged areas are making tremendous efforts, despite that the government project has been focusing on profit-oriented large corporation projects. For example, pine forests along the Rikuzen Takada coastal areas in Iwate Prefecture were one of the most beautiful pine forests in Tohoku District. The project for protecting the only surviving ‘miracle pine tree’ is a well-known story. Not only that but also the seeds protected by the residents have been nurture. Residents are working hard in order to revive their lost forests within a couple of decades.

The recovery from the disaster starts now. Scientific research on the mechanism of the major disaster, and

protection against it should be encouraged. We also argue that the policy for the recovery should be the recovery of the human right of the residents of the disaster area, focusing most on the people of the area of the disaster.

For this purpose, scientists from different fields of studies have to cooperate together, discussing with people of disaster areas. JSA, Japanese Scientists Association, has to be a leader for the real recovery, by working with the people of the disaster areas.

May 26, 2013

The 44th General Assembly of the Japan Scientists' Association

***PERFORM RESIDENTS' SECURITY, AND FULL COMPENSATION FOR A NUCLEAR POWER PLANT
DISASTER, AND PROMOTE THE POLICY OF NUCLEAR POWER PLANT ZERO
FACING UP TO REALITY***

It has been more than two years since the severe accident of Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant of Tokyo Electric Power Company. However, it is far from stability and an improvement of the situation, and a trouble still continues. The tank group which stores contaminated water is increasing and fills a large site. The work of decomposition of the nuclear reactors is just in a groping state, and there is no prospect of progress. The government should withdraw "setting declaration" immediately, and do its best to prevent the worst situation with Tokyo Electric Power Company.

The exposure to radiation of local residents accompanying the nuclear power plant disaster, environmental pollution, and the contamination for products of agriculture, forestry and fishery, residents' large-scale refuge, traffic blocking, and chain influence and confusion of stoppage of administrative affairs, economic activities, education, culture and medical welfare activities has brought the whole community huge damage. Furthermore, damage such as mental anguish on the everyday life which arises secondary and thirdly and damage of the whole goods, such as movable property and real estate, are unfathomable.

The government and Tokyo Electric Power should tackle to minimize residents' health impairment and face the compensation and recovery for damage which arises now and in future as a subject of the highest priority on their responsibility. They should pay the utmost efforts that can be performed.

They also should perfect compensation to the damage by the nuclear power plant disaster for all the local jobs, such as agriculture, forestry, fisheries, the manufacturing industry, and retail trade. They should not beat down and delay the compensation.

Moreover, right protection of the workers engaged in accident measure or decontamination is also an important subject. However, the government and the government parties reject the people's demand of no nuclear power and are hurrying nuclear power plant re-operation in the whole country responding to ask of the business world and the U.S. Tokyo Electric Power Company have not denied re-operation of nuclear reactors of No. 5-6 in Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant and four nuclear reactors in Fukushima Daini nuclear power plant. While the active fault just under a nuclear power plant becomes clear one after another, in order to ensure residents' safety, re-operation of a nuclear power plant is never allowed.

Furthermore, the top sales of the nuclear power plant to the developing country by the government and a nuclear power plant maker are reckless action which exposes foreign country people to the danger of a nuclear power plant disaster.

The government, entrepreneur, atomic lobby and academic circles should accept humbly seriousness of the accident which has still discharged radioactivity in more than two years and clear the responsibility of government and atomic lobby which promote the nuclear power plant policy forcibly. They should make the national wide agreement of nuclear power plant zero.

The Japan Scientist' Association demands to convert electric power policy radically towards promotion of energy saving, and promotion of practical use of the natural power sources which originated in the area, aiming at formation of a national consensus.

May 26, 2013

The 44th General Assembly of the Japan Scientists' Association

PREPARATION FOR NANKAI TROUGH HUGE EARTHQUAKE

The Tokai district symposium was held in Aichi University on April 20, 2013 with 75 participants. The theme of symposium was the Nankai Trough huge earthquake. There were two lectures after an opening address of Mr. Ushida (the chair of the executive committee) in the morning session. The first lecture entitled "Preparing for the huge earthquake of Suruga and the Nankai Trough: gazing at the further possibility of a super-huge earthquake" was presented by Mr. Furumoto (Nagoya University) and he explained the mechanism of a huge earthquake occurrence and prediction of damage in detail. The next lecture's theme was "the present condition of restoration and revival, and teachings of the subject on Great East Japan Earthquake". Mr. Tsunashima (JSA) reported the measure against restoration / revival of the damage situation of Miyagi Prefecture comparing with Iwate Prefecture.

There were three persons' lectures in the afternoon session. Mr. Hayashi (Emeritus Professor Shizuoka University) reported on the danger and radioactive exposure of Hamaoka nuclear power plant. Mr. Maeda (Mie University) reported the measures, the present condition, and the subject for disaster prevention in a local government of depopulated district, in particular on the detailed results of an investigation in Mie. Mr. Kondo (Gifu University) mentioned about the educational practice theory of tsunami disaster prevention and preparation for an unprecedented disaster referring to "the tragedy of Ohkawa elementary school", and "the miracle of Kamaishi". In the comprehensive discussion there were opinions from those who are taking charge of disaster prevention in enterprises, local governments, and local area. During advancing the plan and preparation of this symposium, JSA in which scientists can talk together over the fields was felt worthwhile again.

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) TOWARDS A FUTURE SOCIETY WITHOUT ANY NUCLEAR POWER PLANT AND GLOBAL WARMING

To avoid a critical climate change and establish a sustainable world, it is inevitable for the international society to build and execute a medium-long term gas reduction plan. A JSA research committee, JSA-ACT was established to collect information and make a recommendation for that purpose. The committee has studied concerning usage of natural energy like wind and sunlight as technical alternative for CO₂ reduction with participation of young scientists. In the process we encountered a significant event to seriously cope with, the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant accident. The critical opinion that the nuclear power generation is an incomplete technology has prevailed in JSA. We now have a doubt that we have been deluded with a myth that what really cannot be expected achievement would be accomplished in future. From that aspect we also must contemplate the shift to natural energy with a serious mind. Along to that line the committee set up a session at the 19th Comprehensive Scientific Study Convention and published a few papers in "Journal of Japanese Scientists". The committee understands it needs to learn JSA members' findings for comprehensive investigation of these subjects. And the committee also wishes to develop frank exchange with those who, stating that global warming is only a concoction in order to promote nuclear power generation, oppose the thought of IPCC.

2) CIVIC GATHERING TO THINK OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHT (18) HELD

On July 6 JSA patent office chapter organized the above civic gathering to discuss several issues such as the actual state of US lead economic globalization like TPP and intellectual properties protect under the new growth strategy of the Abe administration.

Report 1: Mr. Kato (patent office, ret.) "World patent on weaving course (TRIPs) part 2 – Contemporary subject of intellectual properties"

Mr. Kato surveyed the history of GATT, WTO, and TPP. The way of multinational companies in which they run

new developed installations exploiting cheap East Asian labor based on R&D in the home country and sell commodities in upscale countries established the global oligopoly structure chiefly utilizing intellectual properties in order to build advantage and brand at the design stage. Independent development of science and technology in advancing countries cannot be hampered. At G8 summit it was indicated that the competitive reduction of corporation tax festers financial administration. That shows an expanding contradiction among the ruling class. The speaker says, although the development of multilateral companies has been supported by dollars as international manners to settle, intellectual properties will be also radically reexamined when investment through surplus funds is up at the next stage.

Report 2: Mr. Oyama (intellectual property division, a private company) “Mechanism of flora conservation – a novel topic”

Since the inauguration of International Convention for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants in 1968, with the progress of TRIPs, seed and seeding law as well as patent law prevailed gradually in Japan. The seed and seeding law permits in principle seed multiplication by farm house, which exceptionally is prohibited according to the advancement of bio-industry. In history, pharmaceutical companies have conducted bio-piracy and there have been rows between seed and plant suppliers and farmers. In 2001 International Treaty on Plant Genetic Resources for Food and Agriculture has come into effect in concord with biodiversity treaty (Japan ratified this July). He also introduced as recent topics, Monsanto Protection Act case in America and issues of genetically engineered products.

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) LECTURE MEETING FOR FRESHMEN HELD

Hokkaido branch held a lecture meeting for freshmen of Hokkaido University on April 26. Prof. Yamagata (Hokkaido Univ.) gave a lecture about "Natural power sources for local community -- Is the society with no nuclear power plant possible to be built?" He first pointed out a merit of facilities and the demerit of the inefficient thing about electrical energy. He said that it is problematic for the society to depend heavily on electricity, and so for the one to easily use a nuclear power plant as well. Furthermore, he asserted the necessity of strengthening recognition of the problem of a nuclear power plant disaster and nuclear waste. Secondly, he described the numerousness of the deposits of natural power resources, and pointed out the possibility of alternatives such as wind force, biogas, a pellet, and solar energy. He explained that use in the area of natural power resources would prod regional economy to activate exemplifying Hokkaido's case. On the other hand, he said that it is important that NPO, a citizen, administration, a business unit, and research institutions make a consortium for realizing such a measure. Participants eagerly discussed the things centering on natural power resources followed the lecture.

2) LECTURE FOR CITIZENS AND SCIENTISTS

Group Hazuki (August) in the Tokyo branch has opened lecture meetings 3-4 times a year to increase women members ratio in JSA, which treated problems about food, clothing, and shelter, education, and literature, calling on women's organizations. On May 11 the group held a study meeting "Aiming at the society with no poverty -- Talking about our living focused on shelter", where two lectures were addressed.

(a) Prof. Nakajima (Wako Univ.) addressed a lecture "Struggle with poor habitation -- Focused on the problems of street people and earthquake disaster", where she showed her fundamental thought about the role of habitation in human life. She pointed out some problems concerning how to back up street people and how to plan safe shelter in a time of disaster, talking her findings from field examination.

(b) In her lecture "Retirement home -- Housing problem in the latter half of our life", Ms. Kikuchi (New Japan Women's Association) indicated the seriousness of housing problem aged persons confronted. For instance, as for public housing built for aged persons, the facility has no space for helpers to stay when it is necessary and no place to keep wheelchairs, and moreover homes for aged have scarce capacity.

3) CONSTITUTIONAL CIRCUMSCRIPTION "CONSTITUTIONALISM, HARDNESS, AND PACIFISM" MENACED
JSA Yamagata branch has organized a constitution gathering every year. This time the branch invited Prof. Nakajima (Yamagata Univ.) to give a lesson considering the Abe administration intends to revise the Constitution started last year. Constitutionalism means to circumscribe the power and secure the citizens' right, while the Democratic Liberal Party (DLP) aims to amend the Constitution for the purpose of limiting the citizens' right. The professor showed Premier Abe and DLP's politicians did not know or pretended not to know on account of their voices. Even H. Ito (prime minister in the Meiji era) in 1889, the year of establishment of the Imperial Constitution, remarked that the spirit to establish the Constitution in origin is firstly restriction of royal powers and secondly protect of citizens' right. What Prof. Nakajima advocates is the theory of pre-commitment, namely, to obtain long term security and profit by circumscribing in advance. Quoting Y. Mishima's word "The fear of humanity to be inside me and the fear of humanity to possibly be inside others eventually forge citizens' consciousness" ("Change the University of Tokyo to zoo", 1969), he criticized recent talks of Premier Abe and Osaka Mayor Hahimoto about constitutional amendment contain carelessness and artlessness with undoubted trust for humanity. As for revising Article 96 (concerning process of amendment), Prof. Nakajima said that they intended to change the rule of game to their favor, which was criticized even by a constitutionalist advocating the amendment of the Constitution, Prof. S. Kobayashi, Keio Univ., who says it is perverse in the sense of ignorance of constitutionalism. The government has made two-sided interpretation of Article 9 as justification of Self-Defense Forces and restriction of its activities, he says.

4) SYMPOSIUM IN THE SHIKOKU DISTRICT "A NUCLEAR POWER REACTOR FADEOUT AND RENEWABLE ENERGY"

The symposium in the Shikoku district was held at the lecture hall of Asty Tokushima (Tourism and Convention Facility in Tokushima pref.) on January 15.

As an introduction prior to the symposium Prof. Okamura (Kochi Univ.) gave a lecture under the title "The latest information of a massive earthquake and Ikata Nuclear Power Plant". He talked about anticipation of the damage about 4 linkage earthquake of Tokai, Tonankai, Nankai, and Hyuga Nada (Nankai trough great earthquake. Nankai trough is a subduction zone located in on the south of Japan.), and the necessity for anti-earthquake procedures and the measure against a damage of tsunami.

The symposium had four reports. (a) Prof. Murata (Ehime Univ.): "We need to free ourselves from the society depending on a nuclear power plant, and need to aim at revival of regional economy." (b) Prof. Nakasatomi (Tokushima Univ.): "The new right to life which opposes a nuclear power plant." (c) Prof. Iwata (Emeritus Prof., Kochi Univ.): "The future of renewable energy." (d) Ms. Yoshida (Challenge and Change for Energy Democracy C-Ene, citizens-organized meeting of the energy): "The challenge to the renewable energy by citizens."

After the lectures, a panel discussion was performed and it had an active discussion.

5) 4TH REGULAR MEETING FOR STUDYING SOCIAL SYSTEM IN KYOTO

The study meeting of social system of the Kyoto branch held a regular meeting on June 14 at Higashiyama Ikiiki (perky) Civic Center, where Prof. Morioka (Kansai Univ.) addressed a talk "What does Karoshi accuse of?" He mentions the statistics of the Health, Labor and Welfare Ministry concerning *karoshi* and *karo-jisatsu* (death and suicide due to overwork) states that *karoshi* due to brain and heart diseases amounts 898 in 2011, 1.8 times as high as 493 in 1999. In the meantime *karo-jisatsu* caused by insanity amounts 1272 in 2011, 8 times over as high as 155 in 1999, especially that for the young in the 30s shows the peak in the young, which became a social big issue. Due to the police announcement, the young in the 20s including university students conducted a suicide because of job shortage are increasing, in fact counted 73, 108, 145, and 199 in each year from 2007 to 2010. Why are such *karoshi* and *karo-jisatsu* increasing? That is because Japanese workers are under the condition without rights. Labor Standards Law, which ought to have protected labors, has been bedeviled by Liberal Democratic Party administrations from 1978 to 2002, which promoted deregulation of labor hours. That resulted in loading workers to work overtime and unpaid job. Moreover labor unions have changed their nature to those not to struggle against capitals. Japan after the 1980s has turned into a stressed strike-less society. Remark that the labor union's rate of organization has been reduced to 18% in 2010.