

THE BULLETIN OF JSA

THE JAPAN SCIENTISTS' ASSOCIATION

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24TH TOHOKU DISTRICT SYMPOSIUM ON NATURE AND CULTURE IN TOHOKU DISTRICT

The symposium was held on October 5-6, 2013 at Yamagata University. The planning committee aimed to emphasize we must recognize again the value of natural and regional culture that give many blessings to us. Many areas in Tohoku district still does not recover from unexperienced damage caused by the Great East Japan Earthquake Disaster and severe accident at the nuclear plant. We know many people are striving to bring back their towns, lives, and community undauntedly in the difficult situation. We do not admit to lose rich nature and culture that people in this district have been fostering.

The keynote speech by Prof. Egashira (agriculture, Yamagata Univ.) was about inheritance of attractive conventional products. Their breeds have been inherited breaking down many difficulties, thanks to that the regional food culture has been fostered, and the local industry developed, he said. Eleven general lectures were delivered, some of which are as follows: (a) Mr. Kusakari "Oguni Matagi (hunter) – inheritance of conventional spring bear hunting playing on the stage of avalanche land", (b) Prof. Hatsuzawa (Fukushima Univ.) "Results and problems of *Art festival in Aizu woods*", (c) Prof. Awano "Formation of street network in Yonezawa, a modern castle town, and vista of mountains – the meaning of protection of vista", (d) Prof. Karita (Tohoku Univ.) "The planning of Tohoku Medical Megabank", and (e) Prof. Kajiwarra (Iwate Univ.) "Reconstruction assistance of fisheries industry and aquaculture at tsunami devastated areas".

31ST KYUSHU-OKINAWA DISTRICT SYMPOSIUM OPEN

On 23-24 November, 2013 in Oita City the symposium was held with the theme "Natural energy and Kyushu Island's future", which was arranged as pre-symposium toward 20th Comprehensive Scientific Study Convention.

Part I (23rd day): Natural energy. Prof. Abe (Beppu Univ.) delivered a keynote lecture "The significance of natural energy development in regional society". He maintained that the profit from natural energy development needs to be returned to district so as to vitalize regional society. Professor Otsubo (Miyazaki Univ.) correspondingly reported on the feature and issues of New Energy Vision of Miyazaki Prefecture. The vision, which was drafted by the meeting he chaired, advocates the use of natural energy basing on the peculiarities of Miyazaki, though it has the possibility that companies outside the prefecture reap the profits. Mr. Kosaka (NPO representative) reported on Asia grid plan and electric power

deregulation. Taking up natural energy and combined gas as examples of energy with no use of nuclear power generation, he proposed transmission of electric power converted from natural energy to Japan from Asia through Asia grid.

Part II: Issues of nuclear power generation. Dr. Ueda, member of Oita branch, reported concerning the movement against and breaking with nuclear power generation. Subsequently Dr. Nakanishi (combustion furnace technician, ret.) gave a talk on the scientific and technical problems in resumption of operation of Kyuden-run nuclear power plants. A Kyuden 's engineer on the program of NHK answered to the question of Nuclear Regulation Authority concerning the severe accident that they cool molten atomic fuel fallen from the pressure vessel with a large amount of water even in case that loss of all electric supply and meltdown happened. That would cause phreatic explosion with high possibility, he criticized.

Part III (24th day): University education problem. Prof. Aida (Oita Univ.) reported on the administration of Oita University that the president and directors had conducted such unfair labor practices as unilateral defeat of the labor agreement, and not accepting promised reuse of union's room. Prof. Kinebuchi (Miyazaki Univ.) expounded the new academic course of Miyazaki University, which stresses active learning and enhance global human resources to foster the ability of problem solving, pointing the course could negate the liberal arts. Prof. Kobayakawa (Kyushu Univ.) reported the core policy of education of Kyushu University and the situation of its practice.

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) ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMITTEE OF PROBLEMS OF ENGINEERS AND SCIENTISTS IN PRIVATE FIRMS

The committee investigates problems that involve researchers and technicians working at private firms, 60% of Japanese ones. It every year organizes two regular meetings and symposia in parallel.

On September 29, 2013, a symposium was held with two reports. The first report was presented by Mr. Kushimoto entitled "Soradas 2012 (NO2 measurement movement) and social responsibility of scientists and technicians". He explained that air pollution measurement movement in Osaka moved government to reduce steadily pollutions by tightening regulation through several times reconfirmation. In the discussion, several questions on accuracy and interpretation of measurement and the reflection of measurement results to residents were raised. Mr. Sakai raised problems "Researchers and technicians in black companies (ones illegally treating workers)". He explained concretely some actual behaviors of a black company, and illustrated in what situations two researchers of Tohoku University committed suicides, and emphasized the labor union should response concretely recognizing circumstances. He pointed out that the labor union must watch the aim of Japan Federation of Employers' Associations' new days' Japanese management ("Challenged direction and its specific measure", 1995) which originated the deregulation of protection pacts for workers, that permits to dispose workers.

2) "HAVE A THINK PEACE EDUCATION" – HEIMINKENREN SERIES SYMPOSIUM

In 19th October, 2013, a symposium “Have a think Peace education” was held at the Bunkyoukumun center, and we invited Mr. Masahiro Sekiya, Saitama high school Education chairman, and Mr. Junji Akai, emeritus professor of Nigata University.

Main speaker, Ryuichi Ozawa (Democracy Scientists Association Law Group) talked how important ideal and realistic peace education and education of constitution to handle the current situation in Japan such as acceptance right of collective defense, each party’s stance of constitution issue in the last Upper House election.

First panelist, Mr. Sekihara talked his practical peace activity with his junior high school students; he studied history of Hiroshima for prior learning, visited Peace museum in Hiroshima with his students, after that students challenged to write a report Japanese history from a self-inflicted wound of view, development of international law, perception towards war etc.

Second panelist, Mr. Akai talked about a lecture “Thinking what is Peace” in his university. He gave his students an assignment “What 3.11 (Great East Japan Earthquake) give challenge to us, and what we can do for nuclear abolition. This assignment gave opportunity to students to learn the issue with one’s five senses, and also made significant communication between students and teachers. Also some of the students create peace club and they sent peace letter to US President, Barack Obama. Moreover, they attend Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear, launched a signature campaign for nuclear-free and peace declaration.

In the discussion session, an international student from China gave a comment that “I learned prior learning to visit Hiroshima. For the Understanding of history and peace education in Japan need to learn to this from other countries effort, and important to learn accurate recognition and critical analysis” which is the most impressive comment in this symposium.

3) RENEWABLE ENERGY SPREAD NATIONAL FORUM 2013 IN OMACHI

"Shift to renewable energy from nuclear energy now", the voices of the people are growing based on the experience of the Fukushima nuclear power accident.

In the situation where global warming is serious, it becomes more important to cope with both nuclear powers zero and stop of global warming. The promotion of energy saving and the spread of renewable energy has become urgent tasks.

An Executive Committee composed of ten organizations including JSA held a forum on 16 -17 November 2013 in Omachi. More than 150 people attended the forum from all over the country.

NPO "Community Development Factory" in Omachi is acting to save energy and to use renewable energy such as small hydro power generation, production of rapeseed oil, production of light oil from waste cooking oil and restoration and use of natural refrigerator. On the first day, visiting "Community Development Factory" and a plenary session were conducted. In the plenary session, a memorial lecture entitled "Phase out of nuclear power generation and reproduction of local economics with natural energy" by Mr. Yoshii (an ex- member of the House of Representative) and a special report entitled "Activation of the region with renewable energy “by Mr. Kasagi (Community Development Factory) were presented. Mr. Yoshii explained clearly the current problems of the nuclear power plant accident, the compensation in future, the decomposition of reactors, the re-operation and the nuclear power plant export referring to the risk of nuclear accident which has been pointed out before the accident and the Diet debate. Mr. Kasagi reported

his struggling for start-up of "Community Development Factory" in Omachi and the know-how and practice of the business.

Three sessions were held on the second day. The titles of the sessions were as follows: (1) "Introductory course which aims to spread renewable energy". (2) "Toward the success of energy business with cooperation of local governments and residents". (3) "Toward rapid progress of the renewable energy spread without nuclear power generation". In the ending plenary session an appeal was adopted.

4) ACTIVITY OF THE RESEARCH COMMITTEE OF POLLUTION AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS

The research committee of pollution and environmental problems held a lecture meeting on "Radioactive cesium contamination in the ecosystem" and the 1st study meeting with about 20 participants at Nihon University on December 7, 2013. The lecturer and the title were Associate Professor Watanabe (Tokyo University of Agriculture and Technology) and "Dynamics and pollution level of radioactive cesium in the ecosystem around Nihonmatsu City in Fukushima Prefecture", respectively.

The lecturer introduced part of the result of investigation of the radioactive cesium distribution in the ecosystem around the Nihonmatsu Towa area close to the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant performed by the lecturer et al from 2012. The details were as follows. 1. By paying attention to the river to be used for agricultural water, time course and distribution of radioactive cesium in the sediments of the Abukuma water system. 2. Distribution in the ecosystem of paddy fields around. 3. Accumulation levels in insects, amphibians, reptiles, wild birds and wild mammals.

The radioactive cesium concentration of sediment of Abukuma water system is 8000Bq/kg at maximum and 1000Bq/kg at average. It is 10 times over the average of 100Bq/kg in the Tama River water system. Accumulation of radioactive cesium is also found in body tissues of wild animal kind. He also introduced the recurrence of hexavalent chromium contamination in Tokyo Bay coastal liquefied by the Great East Japan Earthquake and pointed out that we should not make light of the heavy metal contamination.

5) ACTIVITY OF THE COMMITTEE OF PROBLEMS OF NATIONAL OR PUBLIC ENDOWED INSTITUTION

National research institutions, since having been transformed into incorporated administrative agencies, have always been demanded efficiency, short of human and money resources, and in an exhausted condition under the heavy valuation. The similar circumstances are also found at local research institutions. Our committee is acting to elucidate those problems at research institutions and seek for the way to a solution of them. The fruits can be seen in JSA's "Journal of Japanese Scientists".

The Japanese government determined a basic guideline for the reform of incorporated administrative agency, in which the research institute are placed with research and development agency, stipulated for reasonable governance. The guideline plans to unify some institutes, and establish NIH in Japanese version in parallel. Specific national research and development agency is furthermore considered as a special case for gaining accomplishments of world best standard. These moves possibly have an impact on public research institutes, which would more deteriorate environments around institutes because of ignoring workers' voices. The committee will continue to analyze actual circumstances and ameliorate them as the main activity. The committee call on staffs of research institutes to work together.

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) OKAYAMA BRANCH

The October regular meeting of the Okayama branch was held. Prof. Nozawa(Okayama Univ.) lectured on “What is the cause of global warming? And correct understanding”. He had studied prediction of global warming using numerical climate models at National Institute for Environmental Studies. He mentioned that the earth surface temperature would be -19°C without greenhouse-gas and the surface temperature of 14°C at the present time is kept by it with superb balance. Then he explained in detail about five anthropogenic factors of global warming those are greenhouse-gas, stratospheric ozone, tropospheric ozone, aerosols and land use. Every simulation result by researchers around the world using a supercomputer shows that the emissions of greenhouse-gas by human activities has led to global warming since the late 20th century.

IPPC 5th report says that sea level rise of 82cm and temperature rise of 4.8°C at maximum could occur by 2100. However, increase in this decade temperature has not been observed. Difference between the predicted value and the observed value is due to the uncertain evaluation of involvement of ocean heat absorption, in particular, that of deep-sea. For a sustainable future, scientific correct understanding and effective action to reduce greenhouse-gas emissions in the international society are required.

2) MEETING “THE CONSEQUENCES OF NEO-LIBERALISM” IN FUKUI

I joined a meeting of Fukui branch of JSA held at the University of Fukui on November 25, 2013. Shigeyuki Hattori, professor of economics at Fukui Prefectural University lectured on “The Consequences of Neo-liberalism” in this meeting. He already published a book whose title was the same as this meeting by Iwanami Shoten.

Everyone knows that the rich people are getting richer and poor people poorer in recent United States and Japan under the policies of neo-liberalism. Mika Tsutsumi also pointed out the same situations under the corporatism in her book entitled “The Government tells a lie without fail” published by Kadokawa Shoten. The corporatism is a state management system with an amalgamation of big business and government. I agreed with Professor Hattori’s views that the core interests of neo-liberalism in the United States were closely bound up with financial corporations and with manufacturing in Japan and Germany.

The neo-liberalism bound up with financial interests failed completely at the sub-prime financial crisis in 2007. However, in Japan the trickle-down theory which insists that economic benefits given to big business will in turn pass down to smaller businesses and consumers, is quite influential and the policies favorable to big business have been carried out for a long time. I asked him in the lecture if the neo-liberalism closely bound up manufacturing sector would incur a contradiction in such a sub-prime financial crisis in the United States. However, he answered he could not find out same examples in the case of Japanese neo-liberalism.

In this meeting Professor Hattori critically explained neo-liberalism, but if we had also heard a lecture of pro-neoliberalism at the same time, I could have clearly understood the characteristics of it. I felt a little bit sorry that we could not have such a meeting.

(O. Yamakawa)

3) OPEN SEMINAR “WHAT IS DOING A RESEARCH?” IN OKINAWA

On 11th December, 2013, our open seminar was held in the Ryukyu University, and invited Lawyer Ms. Asako Akamine as a lecturer. She talked about “Strategic lawsuit against public participation (SLAP) in Takae community” Twenty five audience including students participated in this seminar.

In the Takae community which is northern part of Okinawa, new military helipads for MV-22 osprey is constructing without local people’s agreement. In November 2008, Okinawa Bureau of Defense Policy (BDP) filed against 15 people who blocked a passage near the construction area and they demand a description of the helipad construction to Japanese government to Naha district court.

This trial is absolutely SLAP case because the state who has a devastating force filed local people who does not have power, and just exercise their rights to the government. At the moment, this case makes a final appeal to the Supreme Court. 1) In a provisional disposition application, there are many people came to Takae to support local people’s movement, however, the BDP prosecute only Takae people. 2) In the provisional disposition, only 2 people who are member of community association of No Military Helipads did to obstruct traffic. 3) In the first trial pronounce a judgment one of two blocked a way. 4) In the court of second instance instructed the first trial decision. Also this trial is peculiar and BDP submitted slapdash evidence as seen in a 8-year-old child who have never been the protest place to the court. (Later on BDP discharged the child from the case)

Also BDP’s evidence has many errors such as people who did not protest on the road in Takae was sued for blocked the pass, and could not identify cars etc. This protest movement in Takae was just asking government to explain what the construction for to the local people in a peaceful manner. Aim of this case is obvious that government wants to win. Moreover, local people could not have rest and work because the constructors and government often to come the construction area late night or early morning. Additionally, the accused person needs to attend hearing in Naha district court, and it makes 6 hours round trip drive.

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