

THE BULLETIN OF JSA

THE JAPAN SCIENTISTS' ASSOCIATION

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THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY SYMPOSIUM OF HEIMINKENREN “CREATING NEW VALUES FOR PEACE AND DEMOCRACY –BEYOND NEOLIBERALISM”

This symposium was held in Academy Memorial Hall of Surugadai Campus, Meiji University. There were 60 participants. The theme was based on the concept of “Promoting the development of independent research, activities, and academic exchange and contributing to the development of peace and democracy in the new valiant 21st century world,” which was adopted by Heiminkenren (the Liaison Conference for Studying Peace and Democracy) when they marked its 20th Anniversary in July 2007.

The first session was entitled “Finding common ground between neoliberalism and the Japanese Constitution – The struggles of the Japanese constitution and its further advancement.” In this session, Prof. Watanabe (Hitotsubashi Univ.) sparked discussion about the inconsistent policies of neoliberalism; employment uncertainty, the issue of the increasing income gap and the spread of destitution and its subsequent rise as a serious topic in Japan. He pointed out that Article 25 of the Japanese constitution, which guarantees a safe and peaceful life, has become a moot point at the level of high politics and that it is essential to launch an initiative geared to compete with neoliberalism which lacks its own comprehensive unit. Also he raised the establishment of an East Asian Peaceful Coexistence Economic Block as an aim and discussed how to bring it about.

The second session was entitled “Overcoming neoliberalism and working towards the creation of a new economic order.” Prof. Mitsugu Yoneda (Chuo Univ.) pointed out that we need to clarify the current economic crisis and the problems of American capitalism. He also discussed how, from the viewpoint of the Japanese economy, it was necessary to contribute to the construction of an East Asian community using a demilitarized Japanese economic power based on the ideals of Article 9 of the Japanese Constitution. He discussed the new possibilities brought about when we limit and overcome corporate capitalism.

The third session was entitled “Creating a new worthwhile education working with children and younger generations.” Prof. Takahiko Tanaka (Tsuru Univ.), an expert of Clinical Education, brought out how children are affected by the structure of neoliberalism. He suggested that school should be 1) a place of safety in the students’ lives, 2) a place for teaching students how to live and also listening to them, 3) a place for helping students to understand how to involve oneself in a community, and finally, in a very important point, that 4) A teacher needs to do more than just someone teaching classes; they should be an educator which provides global support for their students.

In the last session, a woman, from the floor said “I am surprised that there are so few young participants here. We need to think how to pass our activities and tasks on to them.” After this statement, many participants supported it and raised a related opinion regarding the field of education. Participants suggested that when we discuss problems in our future work that we need to approach them from many angles, but that our ultimate approach should be based on education. This symposium was quite meaningful.

THE AMBIGUITY OF PUBLIC WELFARE

On March 15, Tokyo, the JSA ad hoc committee of the Constitution held a symposium entitled "The ambiguity of public welfare (4)" to clarify the notion "public welfare" stated in the Constitution. A series of symposia has been projected with the purpose to investigate the significance of the Constitution and make its results public. The theme turns over the one "The actual status of human rights and the amendment plan of the Constitution – Centering on liberty and social rights" of the preceding symposium held on March 27 last year. The notion "public welfare" in the Constitution has two meanings, negative one as a basis of regulation of human rights, and the one for advancing environmental policy. The symposium discussed such ambiguity from the standpoints of political and constitutional sciences.

a) Prof. Saito (politics, Waseda Univ.), "Public security for life as a political scientific problem"

After the theories of John Rawls and Jurgen Habermas, he proposed the conception of public security of life, the system consisting of social security including income indemnity, equal opportunity in education and training, and security for living conditions such as employment insurance.

b) Prof. Tada (constitution, Ritsumeikan Univ.), "Limits of common welfare and economic freedom"

Reviewing the concepts common welfare and economic freedom in constitutional science, he illustrated some elements in economic freedom allowed to constrain for social security as the Constitution of Japan supposes.

In the discussion participants disputed about the relation between public welfare and socialism, and the one between Locke and Rousseau.

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 COMMITTEE OF UNIVERSITY PROBLEMS

The committee of university problems started to investigate what the Do-Shu system (a regionalism, local governmental system recently argued in Japan to enhance local governmental authority like as the federal system in the US) impinges on higher education institutions. According to interim evaluations by the committee for national university evaluation, the second mid-term goals and plans started to be designed and MEXT (Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology) enters into setting and approving them through the assessment committee of Ministry of Public Management, Home Affairs, Posts and Telecommunications. The goals this time will be set basing on the first term evaluation of administration and research results and referred to for coming orientation. In six years the Committee for Certified Evaluation and Accreditation raised some problems: a) Concentrating National Institution for Academic Degrees on institution evaluation ceasing to evaluate the certification, b) letting Japanese University Accreditation Association evaluate PDCA cycle (plan-do-check-act cycle) working with Central Education Council in graduate course, and c) differentiating organizations for certified evaluation and accreditation. Our committee has attempted to grapple university problems focusing on university evaluation because it relates on neo-liberalistic education reform linking university funds problem and has an influence on all national and private educational institutions as revealed at the 17th Comprehensive Scientific Study Convention of the JSA. Japan Federation of Economic Organizations as an ultimate restructuring proposed the Do-Shu system to make the transition in 2015 and together with Liberal Democratic Party and Association of Prefecture Governors embarked on persuading Japanese people. They intend to integrate national universities located in every prefecture to state universities. It is necessary to investigate for what the Do-Shu system was proposed.

2) THE ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMITTEE OF YOUNG SCIENTISTS' PROBLEMS

In 2008 the committee has resumed its activity. It last year organized Summer School in Kyoto, Young researcher session in the 17th Comprehensive Scientific Study Convention, and opened regular meetings in Tokyo, Nagoya, and Kyoto. Basing on the results of these events the committee discussed problems about employment conditions and improvement of research environments surrounding young researchers. The 2009 Summer School in September focusing on a field work concerning Hansen's disease and research exchange, study gathering and investigation on actual circumstances surrounding young researchers are projected. The committee discussed its meaning in movements to realize young researchers' demands. Some members from Tokyo, Nagoya, and Osaka branches are intending to run the committee to promote the movement.

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 "DEVELOPING ENVIRONMENTAL ACCOUNTING"

The Kansai-area's colloquium for scientific workers in private enterprises held a regular meeting on March 8 inviting Mr. Kushimoto, who talked about environmental accounting basing the book "Developing environmental accounting" (H. Shibata, Chuo Keizai Sha), articles retrieved in Internet and environmental reports of corporations. Now in Japan environmental accounting is carried out along the line Ministry for the Environment advances. It usually accounts for expenditures to abide by the pollution control agreement, which are described in environmental reports corporations publish. From these reports the effectiveness for environmental protection, however, can not be read off. The point is that cost effectiveness is imprecise, namely, the effectiveness of investment does not appear as an amount of money. For instance, even if the manager positively placed photovoltaic generation equipments on the roof of a factory for environmental protection, the report would only describe emission-reduction data of CO₂ and no amount of money. The data can not reflect the profitability of investment nor clarify the standard of investment decision. Another point is about the counting of CO₂ emission, the indirect way. That is, the data does not indicate the emission just at where electricity is generated but the one allocated to electricity users. It is strange, considering for instance that the CO₂ emission decreases as Kansai Denryoku (Kansai Electric Power Co., Inc.) increase nuclear power plants. It therein must be noted that disposal cost of waste materials from nuclear power plants is under estimated. The reporter concluded that preparing environmental report is almost nothing.

2) THE 10TH KANAGAWA FORUM ON ARTICLE 9 OF THE CONSTITUTION HELD

On March 14 the Kanagawa branch and Kanagawa Article 9 Society held a forum inviting Prof. Nakanishi (Yokohama City Univ.), who delivered a lecture "Youth and the Constitution – To revitalize the Constitution". He first pointed out the necessity for adults to clear up a misunderstanding on the figure of youth by seizing the sense of anxiety and poor conditions of young people. Young people have been grown up in the restructuring era. They do not realize that Japan was defeated in war and consequently they are protected by the Constitution. Non-normal young workers increased up to 50%, we meet a critical impoverishment in young people and Japan is called a poorest children country. The rate of poverty increases after the relocation of income by the Government. Most of young people earn an income less than 2,500,000 yen a year, which is far from 6,000,000 yen a year needed for marriage at least. Considering the circumstances of the youth from the constitutional point of view, they are not positioned as rulers, being hindered building their independence of sovereign by nationalism of the revisionists. It is time to exercise the significance and function of Article 25 (right of exist, social security) and inspire the youth to seek human labor.

3) THE 36TH OSAKA COMPREHENSIVE SCIENCE SYMPOSIUM HELD

On April 26, 2009 the 36th Osaka Comprehensive Scientific Symposium was held at Osaka University of Economics, which was entitled "Considering employment for young people". The symposium aimed to clarify bad employment conditions lasting from the last half of 2008 that are not thought as a temporary problem in dead season but a long-term structural change since the end of 20th century.

Firstly there were two reports about the change of employment opportunity for young people as follows: a) "Instability of employment for young people and the Japanese economy" (Dr. Ito, Osaka Univ. of Economics), b) "Instability of employment for young people and labor law" (Prof. Wakita, Ryukoku Univ.).

Secondly there were four reports about what happen in labor circumstances: c) "Actual situation of young workers and invitation to labor union" (Mr. Tsunomiya, the young people's association of Osaka regional labor union), d) "Research and life environment of graduate students" (Dr. Sawada, Osaka City Univ.), e) "Explore new postdoctoral career" (Prof. Kanematsu, Osaka Univ.), and f) " Karoshi (death from overwork) case of just-in-time employed postdoctoral" (Ms. Nishida, Center for work, health and safety in Osaka)

After the reports, the participants discussed two subjects, "How do we argue against an opinion that Japanese economy could not win the global competition without the non-regular employment system?" and "What is well-being for human beings?" There were some voices concerning the first question: "We must reconsider the raison d'être of economy and management that cut off many employees", "We must discuss economical rationality of the recently established non-regular employment system".

4) THE KANSAI-AREA'S COLLOQUIUM DISCUSSED THE ACTUAL STATE OF UNIVERSITIES

On July 11 at Kyoto Social Welfare Hall, the Kansai-area's colloquium for scientific workers in private enterprises organized a symposium to discuss the actual state of since 2004 privatized universities.

a) Prof. Ashida, "Now in university: The case of Ritsumeikan University"

Campus policy, under the slogan of university opened to society and supported by society since the late 1980s, has had an aggressive aspect crossing swords with governmental higher educational policy by guaranteeing autonomy of all campus members (the system of consultative body consisting of all campus members and executive board consisting of deans). The university structural reform from 2000 changed to a negative feature as seen in the top down system introduced by administration board or director with on its authority and establishment of APU (Asia Pacific University). Especially during two years from 2004, opening year of privatization of university, the change has raised problems such as a new appointment system of university president, the cozy relationship with political and financial establishment due to the medium-term plan, hostile views against labor unions, the interference to student unions and improper expenditures of managing director. In Ritsumeikan University the recent movement against those problems resulted in the third movement seeking democracy in the campus, namely a gathering where all campus members aimed to overcome crisis of Ritsumeikan University and build democracy in the campus. This movement changed the line of the university administration board, expected to build a true university democracy.

b) Prof. Shimizu, "Case of small-scale university"

The professor is working at a catholic university, which is recently facing difficult circumstances in management. The board established a new course which makes the grade relating social welfare, teacher license and childcare, corresponding graduate students' request. Because of competition with other universities and the declining birth rate, it does not secure a full strength of students, which worsens management. The university is in critical situation, nonetheless not capable to take effectual steps, nor the labor union. It is an urgent task to change education quality, take cooperation with the region, and prod teachers to rethink themselves.

c) Prof. Matsumoto, "Transfiguration of faculty autonomy in Kyoto University"

The points at issue the professor pointed out in prioritization on grad school and institutionalization of state

university as Kyoto University, were as follows: 1) raising research funds from nongovernmental organizations, which might cause to reduce operational subsidy, 2) 1% reduction per annum of operational subsidy makes it difficult to secure necessary personnel and expenses, 3) newly established director post has a danger to offer a temporary post for bureaucrats of the Ministry of Education, and a director from private sector is prone to flatter the executive office, 4) documentation job such as for self inspection constitute a limiting factor for education and research, and 5) increasing involvement of the Ministry of Education as seen in the university evaluation regime. The faculty autonomy of Kyoto University has the following problems: 1) evils of division autonomy such as complicated management among divisions, misappropriated personnel, and obstacles against all-campus reform, 2) authoritarianism or elitism as seen in participation in collaboration among universities, 3) administration question of the big graduate course, and 4) a mere shell of university administration such as the meeting of department heads, and the board of directors etc.

JSA^{NOW}
Briefings from organizers

SCIENTISTS' FORUM AGAINST A & H BOMBS HELD IN KOBE

The 2009 scientists' forum under the theme "Let's make the elimination of nuclear weapons into the main stream in the world", a session of the World Conference against A and H Bombs in Hiroshima and Nagasaki from August 3 to 9, was held on August 2 in Kobe.

[Opening address] Dr. Kanaji (Emeritus Prof. of Kobe Univ.)

[Keynote address] Prof. Ishikawa (Kobe College), "Towards the world with no nuclear weapons – A viewpoint from Asia"

[Report 1] Prof. Kan (Waseda Univ.), "How to deal with nuclear weapons development in North Korea"

[Video message] Prof. Maskawa (Nobel laureate for Physics, Kyoto Sangyo Univ.)

[Greeting] Prof. Yoneda (JSA secretary-general, Chuo Univ.)

[Special address] Dr. Gerson (American Friends Service Committee), "Dawn of hope and nuclear paradoxes"

[Comment] Dr. Yamazaki (Ritsumeikan Univ.), "Nuclear weapons development central to the US and move toward elimination of nuclear weapons"

[Report 2] Dr. Sawada (Emeritus Prof. of Nagoya Univ.), "The facts that the class suit of A-bomb survivors revealed"

[Report 3] Prof. Kameyama (Ryukyu Univ.), "Transformation problem of US bases in Okinawa"

[Report 4] Prof. Wada (Kobe Univ.), "Elimination of nuclear weapons and Article 9 of the Constitution of Japan"

[Report 5] Mr. Kajimoto (Hyogo, Japan Council Against A&H-Bombs), "Nonnuclear *Kobe formula* and NPT Review Conference"

MIYAGI BRANCH

The branch held first branch lecture on July 18 in Sendai inviting Mr. Takamura (graduate student, Tohoku Univ.) as a lecturer, who explained contemporary solid-state physics basing his master thesis.

TOKYO BRANCH

1) The 69th New Peace Colloquium was held on June 26, where Prof. Kaneko (Rissho Univ.) gave a critical lecture against Tamogami's articles, which denies the war responsibility of Japan at WW II.

2) On June 27 the Society Thinking of Tsukiji Fish Market organized a 10,000-people parade around the fish market, appealing opposition to the market relocation and the security of foods.

3) Tama Hegel study group held the 6th meeting on July 12 at Hitotsubashi University, where they studied

Hegel's Great Logic Study written by S. Mita.

KANAGAWA BRANCH

On June 27 at Tsurumi University, Yokohama, the 11th Kanagawa Article 9 Forum was held. Mr. Nakachikuma (TV show producer, Article 9 Society founder) addressed a lecture on the actual situations of mass media.

SHIZUOKA BRANCH

The branch organized a symposium on A-bombs on July 17 at Shizuoka University, where presented were A-bomb survivors' talks and the meaning of A-bomb survivors' trials to seek official recognition of A-bomb diseases.

KINKI DISTRICT

The district (Shiga, Kyoto, Nara, Osaka, Wakayama, Hyogo prefectures) organized 15th Kansai Peace Forum on July 19 at Kyoto Campus Plaza. The following two lectures were delivered: "Towards the 2010 NPT Review Conference from the standpoint of movements to abolish A&H bombs" by Prof. Tomita (Kansei Gakuin Univ.) and "Towards the 2010 NPT Review Conference focused on commitment of non preemptive use of nuclear weapons" by Prof. Sato (Ryukoku Univ.).

SHIGA BRANCH

On July 18 in Otsu, Shiga Prefecture, the branch held an open lecture for citizen entitled "Water control in the Yodogawa river system and dam construction problem" by Dr. Ueno (deputy director, society for the study of national land).

KYOTO BRANCH

- 1) On June 26 at Centennial Hall of Kyoto University the branch held 38th Kyoto University's Future Forum inviting Prof. Yonezawa (Physicist, Emeritus Prof. of Keio Univ.), forerunner of women scientists in Japan having graduated from Kyoto University. She explained the evolution theory from the viewpoint of complex system science.
- 2) On July 4 a regular meeting of Kansai young researchers committee was held at the Kyoto branch office. This time participants discussed Chapter 5 of Ulrich Beck's *Risikogesellschaft* (1986).
- 3) On June 19 the society supporting Miao's trial of karoshi (death from forced overwork) was established. He, Chinese researcher, had made a one-year contract with Tanabe Seiyaku Co. as research stuff after receiving his doctor of agriculture at Kyoto University. In Japan foreign workers' labor environment is not brought into the open.

OSAKA BRANCH

- 1) The study group Contemporary Capitalism held a regular meeting on June 25 at the branch office, where Prof. Manabe delivered a lecture on contribution and payoff.
- 2) The branch organized a commemorative symposium on the occasion of the branch general assembly on July 4 at Osaka City University, where discussed was a question "What is the role of science in the contemporary civic society?" raised by Dr. Sugano (branch representative secretary) and Prof. Mochizuki (JSA international affairs section, Osaka Univ.).
- 3) The Kansai-area's colloquium for scientific workers in private enterprises held a regular meeting on July 5, where discussed was the issue "global financial crisis" reported by Mr. Kushimoto.

OKINAWA BRANCH

The branch held a peace lecture meeting on June 23 at Department of Science, Ryukyu University, where two lectures Dr. Yagasaki (Dep. Sci., Ryukyu Univ., ret.) delivered a lecture "Nuclear strategies of the US

and trials for seeking official recognition of A-bomb diseases", and Mr. Mitajima (junior high school teacher) on peace education.

ARTICLES OF "JOURNAL OF JAPANESE SCIENTISTS"

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