

# THE BULLETIN OF JSA

## THE JAPAN SCIENTISTS' ASSOCIATION

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### *Global warming issue*

The joint movement for global warming -a symposium and negotiation to the government- was held on November 23-24, 2010 by JSA, Japan Network for Earth Environment and Prevention of Pollution and National Center of Resident Movement for Nuclear Power Problems. The movement has three goals. The first is to enact the effective fundamental law for the measure against global warming, the second is to change the dependence on nuclear power and to promote the development of renewable energy as the national energy policy and the third is to actualize the international agreement at COP16 on climate change by the result of COP10 on biological diversity. In the symposium Mr. Ohtuki (former president, Hannan Univ.) reported Japanese energy policy – the present situation and aiming direction. He pointed out that the nuclear plant has become important topic of the growth strategy and the development strategy of renewable energy is less important in the policy.

Mr. Suzuki, invited from Denmark, mentioned that the Danish nation has made national consensus not to depend on nuclear power with over 10 years argument. They also decided that they would never let the next generation take over the problem which can not be solved by the current generation like the measure of the high density waste disposal of nuclear plant. He pointed out that in Japan arguments such as "How the human should live?" and "How the future energy policy for sustainable energy should be proper?" are few. The movement adopted the collaboration appeal.

### **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***

#### **2010 STUDY MEETING ON EMPLOYMENT, LIVELIHOOD, AND LIFE OF YOUNG PEOPLE**

The Liaison Conference for studying peace and democracy organized the above meeting on November 28, Tokyo. The organizer aimed to investigate practical situations that young people and middle ageders confronted with problems of severe employment and livelihood, mental health crisis, suicide, structural reform due to neo-liberalism, and to find a way out. Two lectures were delivered.

Mr. Kawazoe (Union of Youth in the Metropolitan area) talked about the status of regular employees imposed long working hours with low income, non-regular employees unable to cut themselves free from the cycle: employment - unemployment – partial unemployment – partial employment – employment. He further explained unemployed people in the long running status of no income or low income or jobless. Long working hours and low treatment for regular employees and low wages and unstable employment for non-regular employees are head-tail of coin. He explained activities of his union, for instance, a

resolution of illegal issues such as illegal dismissal, unpaid overtime work, no permission of paid vacation, and no register for social assurance and employment insurance.

As to an issue that karoshi (death from overwork) and suicide from overwork recently has shifted to among young people, Dr. Amagasa (Yoyogi Hospital) pointed out the stress of long and hard scheduled work triggers depression. He also cited some cases: a patient, regular employee, lost their jobs according to long suspension of work for treatment of mental disease and turned into working poor, and another could not visit hospital because of low income, by which the condition of disease went into decline. He ended to say that suicide could be prevented through bonds and notice.

### ***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) The Kanagawa branch held the regular study meeting on September 16, 2010 at Yokohama. Ms. Xu (graduate student, Keio Univ.) reported the environmental problems in China. The Chinese government has executed the reformation and open policy from the end of seventies and the economy of China has developed rapidly. However the environmental problems have come to be evident. She introduced the environmental problems of Taihu that is the third large freshwater lake in China. Though China has many environmental problems in the present stage, the government grapples with the problems actively. To understand these facts would be the basic viewpoint to investigate the environmental problems. There are about 200 lakes and marshes as water resource and 80 percent of them are suffered from eutrophication. One investigation says that the government has grappled with the problem since 1995, but the situation has become more severe during these 15 years. In 2007 summer water bloom event occurred at Taihu which is the most entrophicated lake. Water bloom is the phenomenon that the plankton occurs in large quantities in the lakes and marshes having influence of the quantity of nutrition and air temperature etc. There are seven large cities around Taihu. Several cities were influenced by the event. In particular the water supply at Wuxi was stopped in three days. The industry, agriculture, tourism and civic life at Wuxi had great influence. Over fertilization in agriculture would be main cause for the eutrophication of Taihu. Further more the water temperature is influenced by air temperature easily because the average depth of Taihu is only 2 meter. The air temperature in summer at Taihu region becomes very high. She said that she would like to make clear the correlation among water bloom, two dimensional contamination of the land and the climate change and to propose the improvement measure for water bloom occurrence in Taihu and other entrophicated lakes.

#### **2) 28<sup>th</sup> Kyushu-Okinawa Symposium**

JSA Kyushu-Okinawa district has organized a symposium every year to tackle problems peculiar to the district, Fukuoka, Saga, Oita, Nagasaki, Kumamoto, Miyazaki, Kagoshima, and Okinawa prefectures. The executive committee held the 28<sup>th</sup> symposium on October 23-24, 2010 at Faculty of Education, Kumamoto University, with 11 reports.

First day session treated the theme "Foot-and-mouth disease". Prof. Makimura explained the case of Miyazaki foot-and-mouth disease in 2010, especially its cause, and proposed what to do to reconstruct preventing recurrence. Dr. Nakano lectured on the global movement of destroy of domestic animals. Prof. Tobioka presented his thought about infectious outbreak like as foot-and-mouth disease and cattle production from the viewpoint of animal nutrition. Prof. Iriya explained how Miyasaki government had addressed the problems of foot-and-mouth disease suffering and regional regeneration from the viewpoint of fiscal science, pointing out the necessity to build sustainable and spontaneous regional economy. Finally Prof. Okamoto (Kafgoshima Univ.) explained the international risk management relative to foot-and-mouth disease.

Second day session treated two themes: "Regional tasks and the role of scientists", and "Water and environments in Kyushu and Okinawa". As to the former theme two reports were presented: Prof. Ueda "Practical situation of ash dust pollution caused by steel plant and movement against it", and Prof. Toyoshima "*Missile defense* and regional peace movement". As to the latter: Prof. Kawachi "Unnecessary dams in the Chikugo river system", Prof. Kameyama "Henoko-Oura bay and Awase mudland", Prof. Takahashi "No notice of a risk of health brought at Isahaya reservoir", and Prof. Sakai "Present remedy of Minamata Disease".

### 3) HOKKAIDO SCIENCE SYMPOSIUM "MEASURE AND TASK OF FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE IN MIYAZAKI"

The Hokkaido branch held a symposium "2010 Hokkaido science symposium" for citizens on October 30 at Hokkaido University. After the presentation session for research results by JSA member, two experts invited addressed a public on the issue entitled above.

The first was Dr. Takahashi (the chief for western project center of the NOSAI (Agricultural Insurance) Kushiro area) who was engaged in the prevention of epidemics of the disease through the slaughter of infected cows and pigs and vaccinations as a member of twenty-five veterinarians belonged to the NOSAI who were dispatched to Miyazaki prefecture by the request of Dept. of Agriculture, Hokkaido Government.

The second was Prof. Nagahata (Rakuno Gakuen Univ. Dept. of Veterinary Medicine) who was dispatched as a member of thirty-six staffs qualified as a veterinarian by the request of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science & Technology.

Dr. Takahashi gave a detailed account of the damage caused by the most contagious animal disease. He also told that he felt mortified by the fact that he had to devoted every spare moment to be engaged in the slaughter of animals (within a range of 10 km from the location of the infected farms) as a veterinarians. Veterinarian is to administer an examination to keep animals alive. Finally he raised the problem to be improved. It took two days to test the infection of suspected animals at the National Institute of Animal Health. So, it caused a great blank without any controls to the farms.

Dr. Takahata touched upon the lesson he learned through the prevention of epidemics. He introduced feelings of farmers battered by the disaster of disease and articles children and students who saw disasters from close up wrote for a local news paper. He also referred to the subjects that are measures to be carried out rapidly to prevent further spreading from the outbreak of the disease and to be struggled against the disease over a middle and long term. Finally he accentuated the importance of waging a battle at its point of entry such as airports, since now there is no guarantee that the virus is banished from countries in Asian area, and the international exchange is becoming more active.

The fear of the disease and how to keep deep concern for the disease not transitorily were enthusiastically discussed.

### 4) TOUR FOR VISITING HISTORICAL MUSEUM AND INVESTIGATING DAM PROBLEM IN AICHI

On November 13 the Aichi branch held 3<sup>rd</sup> tour around Oku-Mikawa, Aichi Prefecture, to visit Furuhashi Kaikokan (historical museum) and consider the problem of Shidara Dam. The museum exhibits historically precious objets d'art and curios that the Furuhashi, wealthy farmer, collected from mid 18 century, especially writings of T. Saigo, K. Katsu, and Y. Tokugawa having been active at Maiji Restoration. It also exhibits the business of the Furuhashi in forestry and sake brewing. Participants enjoyed high-quality articles, from which felt this museum bear comparison with national museum.

As to Shidara Dam, Mr. Ichino, representative of a group to seek to suspend the construction, explained severe situations in the construction issue. In fact village people, basically against the construction, might accept it on the assumption of compensation money. He showed participants over the planned dam construction site, which is the terminal railway station of the now-defunct Taguchi Line.

*JSA<sup>NOW</sup>*  
*Briefings from organizers*

#### HEADQUARTERS

1) On March 5 in Tokyo Academic System Section held a symposium for examining "The Japan Perspective – 2010 Recommendation" made by the Science Council of Japan. Prof. Torihata (Shizuoka Univ.) deliberated the contents of the recommendation and Dr. Saito talked his comparative study of the recommendation of the Council with JSA's.

2) The 31<sup>st</sup> Seto Inland Sea Symposium was held on March 19-20 at Tokushima University under the theme of revitalization of local society and leaders. The following lectures and reports were presented: A) Mr. Shinkai (NPO representative) "Try toward zero waste – viewing from beautification campaign of Shikoku pilgrimage road"; B) Dr. Handa "Asbestos victims' struggle in Sennan district, Osaka"; C) Mr. Shiwaku "Investigation of actual conditions at sea bed"; D) Mr. Konishi "Investigation of marine wildlife around Seto Inland Sea coast"; E) Prof. Tange "Street people problem"; F) Ms. Nakae "Community center project by citizens".

#### TOKAI DISTRICT

On March 13 at Aichi University, symposium "How we should address the issue of academic inheritance crisis?" was organized by the district members. The following lectures were given: Prof. Homma "To extend academic research – to get over the crisis of education and research in university", and Prof. Nakajima "2011 budget for higher education and issue of university administration". After that two appeals were adopted and panel discussion concerning needs for education and research for people was held.

#### TOKYO BRANCH

1) On March 19 the 24<sup>th</sup> Chofu Science Forum was held at University of Electro-Communications. Dr. Ishiwatari lectured on remedying the problem of household plastic waste.

2) The 2<sup>nd</sup> Earth Science Forum was held on March 19 at Ichigaya Campus of Hosei University. Prof. Suzuki (Rikkyo Univ.) lectured on poverty problem of contemporary Japan which is seen through touch with street people.

3) On April 2 the Science Committee of the Tokyo branch emergently held a symposium on the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant accident happened on March 11. Participants discussed JSA members' role facing in the Great West Japan Earthquake and the Fukushima nuclear plant accident after the following talks: Prof. Tateno "What happened at the Fukushima nuclear power plant", Prof. Ikegami "Radiation pollution of water and foods", and Dr. Yahagi "Telecommunication as a lifeline".

#### KYOTO BRANCH

On February 26 the branch held 3<sup>rd</sup> Kyoto Forum on Science-Technology in Kyoto City, where Profs. Izumi and Nishio respectively lectured under the following titles: "Pollution of chemical materials and health hazard", and "What is computational theory".

#### OSAKA BRANCH

1) The study committee of philosophy held a regular meeting on February 24, where Prof. Yamaguchi (Osaka Univ.) talked about plagiarism committed at Osaka University as an example of moral ruin among researchers.

2) On February 26 at Nakazakicho mall, Osaka, the branch held the 25<sup>th</sup> Kitatenma Science Café, where Dr. Teraoka (Pharmaceutical Information Center Asahi) talked about blood.

- 3) The study group Hegel's 'the Great Logic' held a regular meeting on March 5 at Momoyama Gakuin University (St. Andrew's Univ.). Three lectures explained Section 190 of "1831 Lecture of Logic".
- 4) During March 14-25 the branch held an exhibition "Science Café by citizens" at Kita-Ku inhabitants' gallery.
- 5) On March 26 at Nakazakicho mall, Osaka, the branch held the 26<sup>th</sup> Kitatenma Science Café, where Prof. Yosano (Kansai Univ.) explained how to build a trusted town from a safe and untroubled one basing on social trust.
- 6) On March 29 the branch organized an urgent lecture meeting "Thinking of Fukushima-Daiichi nuclear complex accident". Dr. Iwamoto (Kyoto Univ. Research Reactor Inst.) lectured concerning the disaster caused at the nuclear complex for medical experts.
- 7) The study group Hegel's 'the Great Logic' held a regular meeting on April 2 at Momoyama Gakuin University (St. Andrew's Univ.). Three lectures explained Section 196 of "1831 Lecture of Logic".
- 8) On April 11 at the branch office the study group of "Capitalism" held the April meeting, where Prof. Matsuoka read Chapters 11 and 12.

#### FUKUOKA BRANCH

On March 5 the branch held a symposium "Thinking of unusable dams in Fukuoka" at the satellite room of Kurume University. Five questions were posed: A) Prof. Tsutakawa "Water circumstances and the reviewing of dams in Fukuoka"; B) Dr. Miura "Tax-payers' money used for dam projects"; C) Mr. Ogata "The truth of Irahara Dam"; D) Prof. Kawachi "Gokayama Dam construction plan"; and E) Ukiha Citizens Society "We need not Koishihara-Gawa Dam".

#### OKINAWA BRANCH

On March 5, Nago City, the branch held a symposium under the title "School lunch and Shokuiku (dietary education) – From foods, agriculture, and education in Yanbaru". Four reports were presented: Prof. Nito "Foodstuff procurement in school catering system – Towards local production for local consumption", Ms. Houjou "School lunch for home province", Ms. Kohama "Efforts for Shokuiku through school lunch", and Prof. Kiyamu "JSA members in Yanbaru".

### **ARTICLES OF "JOURNAL OF JAPANESE SCIENTISTS"**

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