THE BULLETIN OF JSA

THE JAPAN SCIENTISTS' ASSOCIATION

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NATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON UNIVERSITY AUTONOMY

JSA Kinki district held a symposium entitled "What did the amendment of School Education Law and National University Corporation Act bring about in university autonomy?" on November 15, 2014, at Campus Plaza Kyoto, where the organizer intended to reveal university's correspondence to the revised acts such as revision of code and action to protest the university autonomy and the academic freedom.

Dr. Aoyama (head, JSA division of academic system) first reported on nationwide development of university reform, especially explained the issues the revised acts involves, some points of concern to revise rules in university, administration conditions such as election system of president and dean, and the revision of rules in Ryukyu University as an example.

As for actual state of national university, Prof. Takenaka (labor union leader, Kyoto Univ.) talked about the result of the election of Kyoto University president, reporting that the university staff have succeeded to protect their university autonomy. Prof. Imaoka (Osaka Univ.) reported on hearing of opinions relating to discussion matters at faculty meeting of School of Foreign studies, Osaka University.

Prof. Masamune (Kyoto Inst. Tech.) and Prof. Oka (Osaka Pref. Univ.) reported recent situations at their universities as cases going on at public universities. Prof. Hosokawa (Ryukoku Univ.) reported on the movement to amend the statutes of Ryukoku University, Prof. Nakajima (Ritsumeikan Univ.) on administration matters, and Prof. Iwasaki (Hannan Univ.) on actual state and issues of private university. Prof. Matsumoto (Yamagata Univ.) delivered a special talk about draft revision of statutes of Yamagata University.

In the discussion, participants stressed the significance to firmly maintain the university autonomy and possess the university charter in facing the revision of statutes, claiming that JSA needs establish policy for university problems and involved organizations including JSA should promote a campaign together.

EMERGENT SYMPOSIUM ON UNIVERSITY PROBLEM IN TOHOKU

The Tohoku district held a symposium "Actual state of national university under revised School Education Law and National University Corporation Act" on November 29, 2015, at Tohoku University under the joint auspices of labor unions of Iwate, Akita, Tohoku, and Fukushima universities.

First the organizer proposed a viewpoint of university administration based on the questionnaires nationwide conducted by JSA and some cases of countercharge against the reform plan of MEXT (Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology), based on university charter. Second given was report on revision of statutes of Iwate University, indicated aims and issue points of MEXT's circular notices concerning amendments of School Education Law and National University Corporation Act indicated, and pointed out that expression *human resource* is seen in Fundamental Law of Education.

Subsequently actual circumstances in some universities were reported. In Hirosaki University, as the president officially announced the reform plan of Hirosaki University in June, and revealed revision of the number of students and grad students in September, the reformation is proceeding. Critics of the university staff union against that have been reported by the media. In Iwate University, the university staff union is preparing an amendment that stipulates discussion matters at faculty meeting in main rules against the authority's draft revision. At Top Seminar for National University Corporation (August, 2013) the president of Akita University mentioned the administration style of International Resources Studies receiving in advance the revised ministry ordinance of MEXT, which influences to other faculties. In Tohoku University the president is taking a wait-and-see attitude, while the university staff union an action to inform the dangerous aspect of the reform plan of national university corporation. In Yamagata University, the authorities proposed a draft revision of statutes in September, decided on its compendium. The point of the argument between university staff and the authorities and issue points of the authorities' response were reported. Fukushima University is making discussion on governance reform and reexamination of research and education system, and statutes related to position and treatment of staff.

In the discussion session, participants realized the significance of ongoing critics, and confirmed a statement relating to statutes revision that opposes a bunch of higher education policy of the Abe administration, and writes clearly that university chief executive should work out administration as far as possible respecting staff's independence in revising rules.

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) 2ND MEETING, THE COMMITTEE OF UNIVERSITY PROBLEM

On October 11, 2014 the committee held 2nd meeting at Korakuen Campus, Chuo University, where they were to discuss circumstances around university: (a) Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology gives notice to each university requesting to adjust regulation in the form straying from

provision of the revised School Education Law; (b) As for the position of faculty meeting and dean election, crucial is the thought of dean having had more authority, as not chief executive but executive with final responsibility; (c) In adoption of super global university, English education is laid a disproportionate emphasis on, the adoption seems a fixed game viewing adopted members; (d) What were done about COE or other problems have not been reviewed. The committees proposed some resolutions: (a) To secure student's right to study; (b) To radically improve the condition of research and education; (c) To ensure the stable guarantee for study of the young researchers and grad students. To do that, it is necessary to take back the university autonomy, let the government play the primary role, for instance raise the level of fundamental expenditure, and build a movement open to and together with citizens. The committee received a request from the Liaison Conference for studying peace and democracy concerning joint organization of symposium on university problem, being requested to draft a policy proposal from JSA headquarters, and intend to clarify the problems thanks to voices from branch members and citizens.

2) STUDY MEETING "LINKING FOOD TO AGRICULTURE" HELD

The research committee of foodstuff problems held a regular meeting on November 29, 2014, inviting Ms. Yoshimori (co-op Pal-system Tokyo) , who delivered a lecture on san-choku (delivery system directly from producing farms) , foodstuff safety and environment. She also talked about recent handling of radioactive pollution and protection of eel resource, and finished up with the co-op founder's words "the future is our thing". Participants discussed questions such as concerning participation of co-op members, the way to put their opinions together, the dealing of good products from producing farms, and organic products. The Korean government is promoting a policy encouraging to establish cooperative society. 1500 societies have been established for half a year since the basic law was enacted. Being expected to be a solution to advancing wealth disparity, consumers', productive, and labors' cooperatives were established.

The cooperative society was born in England in the cradle of capitalism with the spirit of helping one another against severe exploitation and oblique dealings. Considering widening wealth disparity through *Abenomics* (economic policy of the Abe Cabinet) and the consumption and production will be exerted a great influence if Japan participates in TPP, consumers and producers need to tackle difficulties with the spirit of cooperation.

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) 22nd FORUM OF ARTICLE 9 KANAGAWA HELD

On October 24, 2014 the JSA Kanagawa branch and Article 9 Scientists' Association of Kanagawa held a study conference in Yokohama City, where Prof. Nagayama (Tokai Univ.) delivered a lecture on *proactive contribution to military* of the Abe Cabinet.

Professor pointed out some points to understand the nuts of militarism. Mr. Abe has made vain attempts to revise the Constitution through the draft of a new constitution in 2005 made out by Liberal Democratic Party and primary Abe Cabinet in 2007. History repeats itself. In 20014, LDP prepared a draft of constitution amendment and Mr. Abe again came to power. He will fail once again considering the failure of revising Article 96. The word, proactive contribution to peace, by nature means contribution to peace before things happen. Premier Abe's includes acceptance to exercise collective self-defense as well as exploitation of the Self-defense Forces and reinforcement of Japan-US alliance, though we do not know its concrete content. The first one has most reality. If it were realized participation in aerial bombing to Islam State would raise the dangerous join in fight against terror. Prof. Nagayama is wondering if the Abe Cabinet prepares to such a case. As for Japan-US guideline, Japanese government could hardly obtain Korea's consensus on it until end of the year. Although Premier Abe's approval rating is now high, people do not support what he is doing, it will fall at no distant date.

Some opinions from the floor were voiced: Article 9 of the Constitution makes a major contribution in Vietnam War, namely Japan had no toll of fallen soldiers, while Korea a lot ; Primer Abe aimed to revise Article 96 in vain, because of opinion from wide range of classes including conservative class against the attempt to revise. The lecturer made a reply that Self-Defense Forces has been accepted since it is a weak army, conversely if it became strong its unconstitutionality would be severely alleged.

2) BRANCH STATEMENT ON A FINAL RADIOACTIVE WASTE REPOSITORY SITE PROBLEM

The Ministry of the Environment is advancing without local resident agreement the investigation to decide a candidate site for construction of the repository site that stores the radioactive contaminant materials scattered on the environment by the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant accident. On the other hand Miyagi Prefectural governor is willing to cooperate with the Ministry of the Environment and neglects anxiety of the residents opposing the construction.

Member of Miyagi branch had discussed this problem by e-mail and issued a statement in October 2014. The executive committee of JSA decided the approval resolution for this statement. The Miyagi branch sent this statement to the chiefs of all municipalities in Miyagi prefecture and the JSA headquarters sent the statement and the resolution to the minister of the Ministry of the Environment and the prefectural governors of Miyagi, Fukushima, Ibaraki, Tochigi, Gunma and Chiba.

The JSA headquarters advised to the Miyagi branch to work with the research committee in JSA and 5 relevant branches (Fukushima, Ibaraki, Tochigi, Gunma and Chiba). The Government and the Ministry of the Environment do not try to adopt opinions from residents and only gloss over the safety myth.

The construction of theory with a scientific rationale such as radioactive contaminants by concentrated processing and management under human control is required to JSA. It should be discussed well with the resident that the site and its surroundings of Fukushima Daiich nuclear plant are designated as the controlled area of this negative legacy. The scientists and specialists have to present

knowledge and opinion which are trusted by the people and are asked for activities to boost the national consensus making.

3) HOKKAIDO SCIENCE SYMPOSIUM “THINKING ON A UNIVERSITY FROM LOCAL REGION”

The Hokkaido branch held Hokkaido Science Symposium on November 1, 2014 at Sapporo City Hall. The afternoon session was held as a public symposium with about 50 participants. The title of the symposium was “Thinking on a university from local region”.

Prof. Anesaki (Hokkaido Univ., Graduate School of Education) presented a report entitled "Current status of university and international trends in the global economic crisis." Then three reports were presented on the issue of regional universities in Hokkaido. The reporters and the titles were as follows: Mr. Himemiya, "Wakkanai Hokusei Gakuen History", Mr. Shimizu, "The significance of existence and the regional contribution of the University of Nayoro City University in the community", Mr. Sugawara, "Region and University in Abashiri : Tokyo University of Agriculture Okhotsk campus initiatives".

In the comprehensive discussion the following opinions were pointed out. Under the situation that Abe Administration is pressing barren choice of the G type (global) or L-type (local) to the universities of all over the country, the enrollment ratio of Japanese students is the lowest rank in OECD. The ratio should be improved including a reduction in tuition burden. Universities has played a certain role in the community as the core of the region, it is now also expected. There is uneasiness that is missing of idea on autonomy and freedom in a mechanism of top-down in the name of "leadership of the president." Education should not be limited to only “school education” including university education, but needs to take account for “social education”.

Prof. Yoneda (Secretary-General, JSA) participated in this symposium and mentioned that how to oppose against the separation of education and research, what is liberal art asked to university education in present and the research ethics issues seen in STAP cell papers.

4) ACTIVITIES OF RESEARCH COMMITTEE ON NUCLEAR ISSUES: FUKUOKA BRANCH

The latest theme of the committee has been focused on restart of Sendai Nuclear Power Plant. We have issued a declaration “Restart of Sendai Nuclear Power Plant is unacceptable” based on our studies, and listed series of articles “We put questions on countermeasures to severe accidents in the safety assessment report on Sendai Nuclear Power Plant (1) – (3)” on our web site (http://jsafukuoka.web.fc2.com/Nukes/).

In the regular session in November 2014, Masayuki Nakanishi (ex-design engineer of combustion furnace) has reported how the judgment of Nuclear Regulation Authority disrespects safety.

Nakanishi has provided a case of how Nuclear Regulation Authority dealt with public comments which were collected by them. One of the comments was to propose installing external cooling system of pressure vessel (IVR-AM) (register # E8414). The IVR-AM can be installed to the existing plants and is known to substantially improve safety in the case of melt-down. However, the Nuclear Regulation Authority has ignored the public comment. Of course IVR-AM is not enough as countermeasure to

severe accidents. In order to improve safety further, another countermeasure for melt-through should be prepared, such as installation of core catcher or at least a measure to suppress interaction of molten core and concrete materials (MCCI).

It is also unacceptable to continue using concrete of low heat resistance on the floor under containment vessel. At least refractory brick should be paved. According to Nakanishi, refractory bricks such as alumina (Al2O3) or zirconia (ZrO3) are used as core catcher in the nuclear plants in Russia and Europe.

Hayato Kitaoka (committee member, ex-councilor of Kashiwazaki city) and others have filed objection to Nuclear Regulation Authority against plan of restart of Sendai Nuclear Power Plant on Nov the 7th, 2014. We have decided to hold an ad hoc symposium "We put questions on restart of Sendai Nuclear Power Plant" at Tenjin, Fukuoka city, slated for Nov 7th, 2014, to discuss on those issues.

5) STATUS AND PROBLEMS OF MILITARY UTILIZATION OF SCIENCE – SPACE MAY BECOME BATTLE FIELD!

Okayama branch of JSA held a lecture meeting, inviting Satoru Ikeuchi (prof. emeritus, Nagoya University) under the joint hosting with Staff Union of Science faculty of Okayama University on Dec 1st, 2014.

Ikeuchi pointed out that "Science Council of Japan has been expressing determination to refrain from military research since its establishment in 1949. However, Technical Research and Development Institute (of current Ministry of Defense) was established in 2006. The status of Defense Agency was changed to Ministry of Defense in 2007, resulting in full progress of "technology exchanges" with universities, and 'military-academy cooperation' was promoted with number of cases counting 4 in 2013 and 7 in 2014 under Abe's cabinet. Accordingly, the military budgets are flowing into research institutes under the slogan of active utilization of 'civilian technologies that are applicable to defense' (National Defense Program Guidelines for FY2013)." Ikeuchi also appealed for strengthening engagement to signature-collecting campaign for opposing to 'military-defense cooperation.'

As for military utilization of space, Ikeuchi reported that inclusion of clause 'contribution to security' in 'Basic Space Law', effective from 2008 and deletion of clause 'limited to peaceful purposes' from Law Concerning Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA), when it was revised in 2012, have promoted utilization of JAXA; two institutes of JAXA in Okayama prefecture are assigned as basis for utilization. Also reported was provision of monitoring data of space debris to US army was enacted following 'Meeting of the Japan-U.S. Comprehensive Dialogue on Space' (co-chairs including US Department of Defense, NASA, Ministry of Defense of Japan, and JAXA) in 2014 and the task shall be transferred to Self Defense Force (of Japan). Ikeuchi continued to report that the new 'Basic Plan for Space Policy (draft),' prepared under initiative of PM Abe in Nov 2014, includes clauses, related to the right of collective self-defense, such as 'pro-active utilization of space based on National Security Strategy' and 'new era of Japan-US Space cooperation.'

Koichi Ohnishi (President of Peace Committee of Okayama prefecture) next reported about on-site review results of Space Guard Centers at Kamisaibara and Bisei. He expressed his will to strengthen

activities to prevent his hometowns in Okayama from becoming bases for war in the future by establishment of such facility as space bureau of Self Defense Force.

Discussions following the lecture included emphasis on necessity to establish political and legal logics and activities against 'military- academy cooperation'; such logics and activities should be based on ethical perspective, 'scientists should not be engaged in cooperation with military.' In addition pointed out was that risk of such information of military-academy cooperation is assigned as 'specially designated secret.'

6) CIVIC LECTURE "VOLCANIC DANGEROUSNESS FROM THE GEOLOGIC VIEWPOINT" IN TOYAMA

The Toyama branch held a lecture for citizens on December 6, 2014, Toyama Pref., inviting Dr. Kobayashi (Toyama Univ., ret.) as a lecturer, who works at Mt. Otake by foot to make a geologic investigation after retirement. There are only 40 volcanologists in Japan. Ontake volcano unexpectedly erupted in October, 1979. It shocked the society of volcanologists, because it was one of No Mark volcanos. It also erupted in 1991, and 2007, and then September 27, 1914. The eruptive crater newly emerged is located in the extended line of volcanic vents, thought to be a grown fissure. Everybody was shocked at the havoc. The speaker displayed bitterness saying that there have been few marks since the shock in 1979. It would be possible to predict eruption through intimate measurement. Viewing the volcano observation network map, we see there are observation points with censer trouble and very few Meteorological Office running ones. Emergent provision for observation points is desired, he says. He changed the topic of speech to the dangerousness of Mt. Tateyama, from the geologic viewpoint, considering Ontake's eruption. We observe a lot of tephra on surfaces around craters in Jigokudani (Yadagahara) valley, that is, at cliffs, paths, and in excavations. Yadagahara at Mt. Tateyama together with Hkkoudasan, and Towada has been set under full-time surveillance on November 28, because of increased fumarolic gas temperature in Yadagahara. Dr. Kobayashi concluded his speak with claiming that gas and tephra in Tateyama volcano vent should come out as deposits.