

THE JAPAN SCIENTISTS' ASSOCIATION

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Scientists' Forum of 2018 World Conference against A&H-Bombs in Tokyo

The forum was held on 29 July, 2018 at Global Hall, Meiji University, Tokyo, with 143 participants. Reports presented in the forum were as follows.

Prof. Wada (Prof. Emeritus, Tokyo Univ.) delivered a keynote speech "Denuclearization in the Korean Peninsula and denuclearization in Japan Sea, Japanese Islands, and Okinawa". First explaining the history concerning Japanese colonial rule and North-South division of the peninsula, he talked about the background on which Democratic People's Republic of Korea engaged in the nuclear weapons development. On that basis he claimed that denuclearization in the Korean Peninsula means elimination of nuclear umbrella in East Asia and to that end it is necessary to dispel the mutual mistrust among Japan, South Korea, and North Korea. To bargain for the abduction problem through historical perception in common and cultural interchange, and diplomatic relation would advance the settlement.

In the afternoon a panel of five specialists made a discussion on prospect of security in East Asia viewing from Korea, Taiwan, and Okinawa: Mr. Lee (peace studies, South Korea) "Development of peace process in Korean Peninsula and end of the Cold War in East Asia"; Prof. Lim (modern history, Academia Sinica, Taiwan) "New development of contention among China, U.S., and Japan involving Taiwan – Policy '2025 denuclearization' and action"; Prof. Maedomari (Okinawa Intl. Univ.) "The situation of the Korean Peninsula and Japan-U.S. security alliance – centering on U.S. bases in Japan, especially in Okinawa".

Ms. Joyce (Northeast Asia Regional Peacebuilding Institute) reported mutual interchange among the youth in East-North Asian countries and practical approaches to peace learning with title "Action through a civic network in Northeast Asia and Korea's situation". Mr. Kajiwara (Japan Council Against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs) talked about no-nuke world and a vision of East Asia Nuclear-Weapons-Free Zone as a task of antinuclear peace movement, stressing the significance to enclose nuclear power nations by civilian voices.

The discussion was focused on how to build transnational solidarity of civilians, and it was pointed out that Japan needs to aware to be a party in East Asia.

30th anniversary symposium “Create a future with democracy”

The Liaison Conference for Studying Peace and Democracy celebrated the 30th anniversary of its foundation holding a memorial symposium entitled “Create a future with democracy – reviewing peace of Japan and Asia” on July 14.

(1) Prof. Shirafuji (jurist, Senshu Univ.) “Legislation and policy relating to Okinawa under the U.S.-Japan security legislation”: The professor strongly criticized ruling party members’ words such as “How many dead in that case?” relating to the accident that a CH-53E helicopter from Marine Corps Air Station Futenma dropped down its metal-framed window on the schoolyard of an elementary school in Okinawa, and “A great deal of expense could solve the problem” of construction of the new military base, that is basically impossible considering that there are an active fault and sea bed soft like mayonnaise under the area. The Government requested for administrative grievance hearings, suspension of execution, and resorted to legal action on execution by proxy against Gov. Onaga’s repeal of landfill approval. He thus decided, it is an unacceptable fallacy that the statement Government has the same public position as private individual. This strong-arm tactics bases on Japan-U.S. Status-of-Forces Agreement which is more detrimental than agreements with other allies like German, and the U.S.-Japan security legislation predominates over regulations under the Constitution, he stressed.

(2) Prof. Ohbikata (history, Waseda Univ.) “Prospect of peace in East Asia from the viewpoint of history”: He reviewed recent situation in South and North Korea, that is, two Koreas reached agreement on military issues and North Korea held a summit meeting with U.S. getting out of discord and tension between U.S. and China and ones between U.S. and North Korea. Then he pointed out that Japan does not succeed in relationship-building with China and two Koreas, considering its absence of war responsibility reassessment and the inconsistency of historical awareness, which the structure of (San Francisco) Treaty of Peace with Japan – the Japan-US Security Treaty derived. To prospect democracy and peace of East Asia, it is necessary to put effort into interchange of Economics, Societies, Culture-Academic activities, and get rid of antiforeignism from the demotic viewpoint, as well as establish historical awareness across nation borders. Finally he expressed an expectation that the sovereign should reject war conducted by the Government, surveille and rule the Government, and build a peace by overcoming national particularism, basing on the historical awareness and challenge the Constitution states.

(3) Prof. Honda (economics, Dokkyo Univ.) “Log-term stagnation of capitalism and issue points of economic policy”: In Japan-U.S. and Europe, six countries registered a peak of real economic growth rate in 1950 through 70’s beginning, while ten countries did a peak of GDP in 1970s. After then their economic growths dropped sharply and continue to flag. Under such circumstances, following five years lasted *Abenomics* (the Abe administration’s economic policy) the Bank of Japan covered budget deficits by increasing retained account of government bonds, furthermore public pension fund was poured into stock market. Economics have fallen into irremediable government-manufactured economics, because do not correspond with chronically insufficient overall demand, he explains. As alternate solution of liberal party, he proposed to reform demand rather than supply, to shift from upward

policy, financial investment and credit expansion, to downward policy, life security and income security in the form of basic income. For this distribution reformation people needs bargaining power, he noted. (4) Prof. Sanuki (pedagogy, Hosei Univ.) “Nurturing the persons responsible for peace and democracy”: The speaker asked what to do with educational scene lost message ‘*live the way as you are*’, that is, the situation that students are facing with neo-liberalistic competition, required self-responsibility, and receive a threat “*improve your scholarship to win a place*”. He classifies human beings into two groups, *Homo economics* and *Homo politics*. The former is an element of competition, namely, economic supremacy “winning or losing are based on self-responsibility”. Humanity has aimed society in which human right, human dignity, welfare, and redistribution of value are assured, regardless of ability, through changing policy, he noted. Today, cross-border capitals rush to compete and plunder, and children and the youth do not have a vision of changing society using their political power. He concluded, it is our responsibility to build a society where people live as *Homo politics* and children can realize value to learn and live.

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 ACTIVITY OF THE RESEARCH COMMITTEE OF NUCLEAR POWER PROBLEMS

In July 2018 the government decided the fifth energy plan at the Cabinet meeting. This plan positions nuclear power generation as “base load power supply” as usual. Moreover, while reducing the dependency on nuclear power as much as possible, the ratio to total power consumption in FY 2030 is 20 to 22% in the plan.

There are more than 20 nuclear power plants whose abolition have already been determined and the abolition will increase in the future. For this reason, the construction of new nuclear power plants will be planed. It is natural that there are many criticisms on the plan.

The committee is held twice a year to discuss various issues related to nuclear power and is also working on the solidarity of the resident’s movement. The 38th nuclear power generation problem national symposium will be held at Niigata University on November 3 and 4, 2018. Niigata Prefecture has mentioned clearly that the verification of the Fukushima nuclear power plant accident should be properly carried out, and the new governor also has showed same attitude.

On the other hand, Kashiwazaki Kariwa nuclear power plants 6 and 7 are the first boiling water nuclear power plants which have been in conformity with the new standards and aim for re-operation. The main theme of the symposium is “Nuclear accident verification and re-operation problem”. The committee has a plan to present reports on the following: nuclear accidents, new regulatory standards and conformity review, impact on nuclear disaster victims, fifth energy basic plan, nuclear fuel cycle, US nuclear strategy, polluted water problem, and renewable energy.

2) THE RESEARCH COMMITTEE OF FOODSTUFF PROBLEMS HELD SEPTEMBER MEETING

On September 1 inviting Mr. Yamada (lawyer), past Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, the committee held a research meeting on the coming Japanese agriculture since repeal of Main Crop Seeds Act.

Main Crop Seeds Act was established right after the war so as to get rid of then food shortage. It was the important law to bear food security, which imposes stable product and dissemination of rice, oats, and soybeans to the national and local governments. In 2016 the Government signed TPP Agreement and repealed or improved a lot of laws along the agreement. The Seeds Act was also rescinded in April, 2018. Owing to TPP Amendment, elimination and improvement of domestic laws are relegated to the Regulatory Reform Promotion Council under the neo-liberalistic competition (hence, investors' voices thrive), which actually remakes standards of elimination and improvement with economic supremacy.

Seeds special to each district in the nation or prefectures have been supplied to farms. Since the Seeds Act was repealed, however, seeds will be consigned to big companies. On this account commercial farms will be every year compelled to purchase more expensive seeds than ever, or overseas produced ones more dangerous in food security. Sale of seeds combined with fertilizer, pesticides, etc. also came to be conducted, which increased possibility that farms who purchased could not get out of the influence of tying contract. Furthermore, if big companies monopolize dealing, then breakwater against biogenetically modified seeds vanishes, and the genetically-engineered farm produce very likely prevails in Japan.

On the other hand, there came out some prefectures which call for restoration of eliminated seeds act. Such a prefectural action is worth noting, the lawyer concluded.

3) TOWARD ADVANCEMENT OF JSA'S MOVEMENT AGAINST DESTRUCTION OF UNIVERSITIES BY THE 'INTEGRATED INNOVATION STRATEGY'

Science and Technology Policy committee

The Cabinet endorsed the Integrated Innovation Strategy (IIS) in June. Prime Minister Abe said he would put this policy right at the center of Cabinet's growth strategy (June 14, Council for Science, Technology and Innovation; CSTI). In July the Council for Promoting IIS was established consisting of all Cabinet members with the chief Cabinet secretary as chairman. This would be a cabinet-led integration system taking precedence over the control tower of policy areas such as CSTI, IT, medical services, outer space and the seas.

Akaishi, Director General for Cabinet Policies, who formulated the IIS asserted that, in Abenomics, the area of innovation, in particular that of universities, was yet unsatisfactory and said that the Cabinet Office rather than the Education Ministry would be in charge of the "university reform" (the Yomiuri, August 17).

The IIS is not a novel variety of a document of science and technology policy. It is rather an action program for driving international competition of big business by incorporating universities into industry-academia-government collaboration. Just another reaction such as 'Not again' will be no match for it. Realizing the severity of IIS the Science and Technology Policy Committee (headed by Hyodo Tomohiro) has continued analyzing and criticizing it from its formulation stage. We keep contributing

articles, for example, to the ‘Central Committee Column’ in the April issue of our JJS, to the ‘Hiroba’ of JJS(June, Aug., Sept., Nov.), routine reports to the general assembly and to the standing executives (May, June) and a critical article about IIS to our Committee Section on a website of the JSAweb (July). We also write every month about circumstances for science, technology and academics in the monthly issues of Academic System section of the JSA web.

We consider it necessary that JSA collectively materialize our fundamental criticism of today’s science and technology policy in cooperation with related committees. Our committee would also make positive effort to contribute toward it.

(Reported by Nomura Yasuhide, Committee secretary)

4) SYMPOSIUM “PROBLEMS OF LINEAR CHUO SHINKANSEN” HELD

JSA liaison committee of Linear Chuo Shinkansen problems (LC) held the above symposium on September 30, at Takushoku University, Tokyo, where 51 participants attended despite typhoon No.24’s approach to Japan.

Dr. Nagata (LC rep.) said in his opening address, what 2014 JSA announcement to request suspension of the Linear Chuo Shinkansen project pointed out have been revealed, for instance, in court the Government and JR Tokai (Central Japan Railway Company) could not defend themselves, which is because the project includes illogicalness and deceptiveness. That is the task the people have to correct, he notes.

The reports of the symposium are as follows.

- (1) “Linear Shinkansen and publicness of rail transportation” by Prof. Sakurai (business science, Kokusikan Univ.): He claimed publicness is nothing other than fundamental human rights, and hence must be justice. That is a decisive logic to pin down the illogicalness of state and JR Tokai, he says.
- (2) “Deep underground problem – legal issue and matters occurring at the construction site” by Mr. Otsuka (orbital motorway network): Deep underground is defined as the underground 40m and below in depth or the one 10m and below in depth from the base of support. Viewing in Nogawa tunnel construction (by shield method) basing on the Deep Underground Utilization Law oxygen-deficient air bubbles have risen, a life threatening incident has happened. The people living along the railroad line are pinning down the JR’s responsibility.
- (3) Ms. Sakurai and Ms. Kawamura (Sagamihara Liaison Meeting): In Sagamihara there are many facilities relating to Linear Shinkansen such as a station, a substation facility, rail yard, 4 emergency way outs, and etc. In the urban area 850 land owners and householders reside in 5km division of the 13-40m earth covering section. Dwellers in the suburban suffer deep problems such as noise at bridge construction site, huge land-waste disposal site in the rail yard, and influence to drinking water.
- (4) “Surplus soil problem, the forefront of protecting resident’s life – resident movement in Nagano and misjudgment of JR Tokai” by Mr. Katsuragawa (Nagano branch member): JR Tokai calculates the counterfeit safe rate out of consideration of under water. Owing to recent study he pointed out that landslide more easily tends to take place in case of mound on gentle slope and we cannot assert 100% safe of mound. We must see through deception of JR Tokai and the Prefectural office.

- (5) “Actual condition survey of the Linear Shinkansen – landfill of valley with surplus soil is problematic” by Mr. Nakano (LC member): He explained the result of field investigation at Oshika village with Mr. Katsuragawa. He proposed to add “We shall not change nature to avoid causing disaster” to three terms relating to inheritance, learning, and community which on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of (Showa) 36 disaster (occurred in 2011) the executive committee proposed.
- (6) “Too atrocious! JR Tokai takes preference to corporate profitability” by Mr. Yamakawa (JSA Tokyo branch): Existing shinkansen depends 100% on the past technology, while the Linear needs entirely new technology. The Linear cannot be connected with other shinkansen, and hence the Order for Enforcement of the Nationwide Shinkansen Rail Way Development Act is not applicable to this case.
- (7) “The point at issue and what remains to be done” by Mr. Sekisima (rep. of trial lawyers): He explained in detail developments of administrative litigation to seek the revocation of approval in May, 2016 and an issue of law. He showed what to do in cross-examination of witness and called out to researchers for 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) JULY MONTHLY MEETING OF FUKUOKA STUDY GROUP ON NUCLEAR PROBLEMS

JSA Fukuoka Branch

The topic of July monthly meeting was “Tsunami caused by seabed landslide” and “2000Watt community”: See <http://jsafukuoka.web.fc2.com/Nukes/index.html> for details.

Most tsunamis are caused by earthquakes. In rare cases landslide on the sea floor also causes tsunami. A seabed landslide may be triggered by an earthquake. The Manju Earthquake that concentratedly hit Masuda area of Shimane Prefecture in 1028 was most probably caused by a collapse of the slope on the floor of the Japan Sea: The focusing effect by the resulting concavity facing Masuda is said to have made the tsunami concentrate on the Masuda area (JSA Kyoto Branch News, No.408).

Ancient documents demonstrate tsunami damages by the Tensho Earthquake of 1586 around Wakasa Bay. Though one theory denies tsunami because the quake was viewed as an inland one, the story, a seabed landslide triggered by an earthquake off Wakasa Bay could have generated the tsunami, can be never denied. The Sea of Japan off Wakasa Bay is said to be one of the areas of the most frequent slope failure. We need to pay more attention to danger of tsunami caused by Japan sea landslide.

In 1988, the ‘2000W community’ was raised in Switzerland and nine ‘2000W residential areas’ were constructed by 2016. The ‘2000W community’ where primary energy consumption rate (primary energy consumption per unit time) is capped at 2000W per capita, enables renewable and fair supply of energy across the globe and keeps global temperature rise at 1.5~2.0°C as compared to pre-industrial era. At present primary energy consumption rate in Switzerland (as well as in Japan) exceeds 5000W per person. This needs to be reduced to less than half. Should novel technology for improved energy

efficiency be put to practical use and a series of countermeasures be implemented, the goals could be achieved without lowering the level of living. According to the speaker the problem lies on political awareness rather than technology. Japan should learn from Swiss '2000W society' too.

(By Miyoshi Eisaku)

2) FORUM "DAMAGE CAUSED BY THE WEST JAPAN TORRENTIAL RAIN" IN HYOGO

The JSA Hyogo branch held an emergency forum "The damage caused by the West Japan torrential rain and its feature – mudflow damage at Shinoharadai and other places" on August 18, where Prof. Tainosho (Prof. Emeritus, Kobe Univ.) was invited as a lecturer. His lecture was outlined as follows.

On account of mudflow caused at Shinoharadai of Nada Ward, Kobe City, on July 6, soil and stone and driftwood flowed in many houses, locked people in, and inflicted great damages as evacuation directive was issued. This area is located at the foot of a mountain and designated as a damage potential zone. In addition, according to the map published in 1996, this afflicted area, formerly a valley, was created as a housing site by filling with decomposed granite soil. Furthermore the deposits of mudflow consisted of sand and clay, not huge stones (mudflow generally flows at high velocities with boulders in the front, and then with small stones and clay). Making an ascent from afflicted area along a mountain stream, we found signs of cliff failure on the side wall, and the collapse of 10m or so wide, 20-30m long at the peak of mountain stream, which was found to be the site of incidence. There must not exist such thick layer of soil and sand in nature. We thought that is artificially piled-up clay on account of the condition around the site. Mudflow in the present case thus long flowed down because of including no stone, and amplified the damage.

Owing to Sediment Disaster Prevention Act, every municipality shall designate the area that is downstream from the apex of the mountain stream and inclined at 2° or more as a damage potential zone (yellow zone) to adjust evacuation structure, which is but not regulated on development and architectural structure. Lowland in a river basin and cliff foot are designated as landslide disaster special precaution areas (red zones) and regulated because especially dangerous. Kobe City made and distributed a hazard map for each ward, though only marked yellow zone, and only red zone is a portion of the Kita Ward but with no regulation. "Kobe type development" should be drastically improved.

Landslide disaster in Hiroshima City occurred at a residential district that was a landslide disaster special precaution area located at the foot of a granitoid mountain, the land of which is the same as Shinoharadai.

3) A LECTURE ON "THE EARTH RESOURCES" BY THE YAMAGUCHI BRANCH

People and countries have fought for resources bringing wealth and destroyed the environment. Since the earth capacity is limited, the underground resources are also limited, will it eventually disappear? Dr. Takashi Kanou (Professor Emeritus, Yamaguchi University), whose field is resource geology, gave a lecture on September 23, 2018.

Dr. Kanou explained with photos the development and current situation of over ten domestic and foreign mines which he visited. From the Meiji era to the Shyowa era the mine resources greatly contributed to the industrialization of Japan, but only one mine is currently being mined. He pointed out

that rich resources are reserved in the continent of Africa, but it causes dispute and has not led to the happiness of residents.

For minerals to be resources, mining possibility, profitability and content are necessary conditions. Expensive resources are mined even at low content, the reserves will be huge on a global scale. As resource depletion happens, alternative resources are developed and used. Shale oil is reserved all around the world, it is profitable by the development of rough technology called hydraulic fracturing method, and it is a coordinator of fluctuation in oil price.

New problem arises in new resource development. If methane hydrate collection fails, there is a risk of global warming due to the large amount of methane gas emission. We must be extremely cautious about the development of the deep sea which is a buffer for the global environment.

A huge amount of residue is accumulated in the Kamioka mine famous for the research of neutrino, and if the dam breaks, destructive damage may occur to Toyama city.

The key to resolving resource problems lies in the development of human resources who strive to solve them. Human resources are infinite resources that can be renewed and improve their own quality. There is a tendency to simulate everything, but the most important thing is to learn from the actual thing in the field.

4) “Thinking of inclusive society from the viewpoint of the handicapped” held

The Okayama branch held a small talk meeting at Okayama University inviting Prof. Yamaguchi (Okayama College) as a speaker. She is in litigation with college authority that in March 2016 ordered her to admit relocation to clerical post and dismissal from study room. She filed a lawsuit seeking annulment of the order. The case is now nationwide supported.

Ms. Yamaguchi became aware of impaired insight when an elementary schooler, getting a job after graduation from college, and then changed the course to attend graduate school. She explained the development from being taken by Okayama College till being suited at law. Participants were surprised with college’s unreasonable treatment. On March 28, 2017 the district court ordered the college to pay 1.1 million yens by the reason that it did not offer *reasonable consideration* called for by Act for Eliminating Discrimination Against People with Disabilities (enacted in April, 2016). The college appealed to a high court and then the superior court against the judge’s decision.

The handicapped are being given an opportunity to get higher education and the way to social participation. On the occasion of 2020 Olympics establishment of inclusive society in which everyone could play an active role is expected, though severe conditions as seen in the Yamaguchi’s case still last to arise. Participants sympathized with her thought about inclusive society.