

THE JAPAN SCIENTISTS' ASSOCIATION

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For bringing peace to East Asia from Kyushu-Okinawa Scientists' Forum against A&H Bombs in Fukuoka

The Forum was held on 28 July in Fukuoka under subtitle "The roles of civic movements and responsibility of scientists."

Prof. Ishikawa delivered a keynote lecture "Conditions for peace in East Asia", in which he stressed the primary condition for East Asia to take steps of reconciliation and cooperation is to build community to prevent war due to ASEAN countries. As to the problem in the Korean Peninsula, a groundswell of opinion in favor of peace arises in Korea and internationally. He pointed out the significance to form united front against coup-like movement now in progress in Japan. Prof. Suzuki, in his keynote address on the Northeast Asia Nuclear-Weapons-Free Zone Treaty, remarked the agreement of eased military tension together with ending Korean War and complete denuclearization in Korean Peninsula had advanced in the Panmunjom Declaration. He claimed that it is necessary to change to a step-by-step policy and to construct a new security framework in the Northeast Asia district.

Mr. Yi Junkyu (Hanshin Univ., Korea) gave a lecture "Peace process in Korean Peninsula, its present issue and task", where he clarified the situation of Korean Peninsula and the practical task of civic movements aiming for denuclearization and peace. Prof. Kameyama's lecture "Okinawa problem, peace and secure of Est Asia, and abolition of nuclear weapons" appealed that present politics are firmly constrained till the coming prefectural referendum and Upper House election by prefectural inhabitants' will against US military bases, demanding the Japanese government should take the ban-the-bomb policy. Ms. Inamura (attorney) charged that the request of v22 osprey deployment disrespects the local governing, ignores the dignity of fishing people, as well as deteriorates natural environment. Mr. Nishida (attorney) reported on the litigation over an injunction of Self-Defense aircraft flight and damages, and the risk that troops of Self-Defense Forces at Nyutabaru Airbase possibly are incorporated in US military operations. Ms. Tokunaga (city councilor) voiced that she would broaden a campaign against the building of a power magazine, a government office, and fuel tanks for the usage of American troops, and extension of the flight strip to the sea. Prof. Okamoto (Emeritus Prof., Kyushu Inst. Tech.) gave a lecture "Reactor-grade plutonium and atomic weapon", where he noted that even reactor-grade Pu has the same level of effectiveness as weapon through nuclear fission reaction, thus Japan possessing about 47 ton of reactor-grade Pu might be a potential obstacle to nuclear disarmament. Prof. Masuyama (Emeritus Prof., Yamaguchi Univ.), in a lecture on Aegis Ashore and DS radar, accused that Yamaguchi Prefecture had been forced to build two military bases in Hagi City and Sanyo-onoda City at the sacrifice of residents' living condition.

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 LATEST ACTIVITIES AND CONTRIVANCE OF THE COMMITTEE FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGICAL POLICY

Progresses of science and technologies are so rapid that we need to deal with details in order to follow up to date. However, with the limited budget, committee of all members is held only once a year. To make up for the low frequency, we hold extended committees twice a year by synchronizing the timing with the travels of the committee chairman to Tokyo and calling for attendance of committee members of regions around Tokyo. Ad hoc email exchanges supplement such exchanges of information and opinions.

Organizing meetings is done by the committee's secretariat members. Reporting of general status of policies is prepared by a member who is sorting out "information on academies" (it is submitted also to the academy organizations committee) every month. In the regular meetings, we first discuss on new features of the status by using the "information" as "report on general status." Next, we cover wide topics submitted by committee members of varieties of expertise. Some of such reports are listed as article on this "Hiroba" column of JJS. Further, on the agenda of "the next plan of the activities of the committee," we discuss on contributions to annual assembly and nationwide symposia, coordination with the nationwide secretariat and other committees of JSA, as well as communication of our achievements.

The communications from us of the past year were, report to annual assembly (four years in row)/JSAWEB "Information on academies"/5 reports to the 22nd Comprehensive Scientific Study Convention (CSSC)/eight papers submitted to JJS/reports to communication of Tokyo branch of JSA/undertaking panelist role in symposium, and submission of papers to other journals, etc.

Lately, controls of academies and researches have been reinforced by the central government under 'Comprehensive Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy.' On the other hand, we observe inconsistencies in the polies of the government as 'lowered research abilities' is pointed out. The committee has been fundamentally criticizing the current polies and striving for expanding the activities of JSA who stands up for science, technology, and academy of Japan, as well as communicating on our policies.

(Tomohiro HYODOU)

2) TOWARDS REVITALIZATION OF COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES: JSA STUDY COMMITTEE OF NUCLEAR PROBLEMS

Eight and a half years have passed since the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant disaster of March, 2011. Among evacuees, more than forty thousand people have not returned home according to Fukushima Prefecture. Decommissioning of the power plant that caused the accident has been extremely difficult. Even though the new regulation standards enacted after the accident are insufficient for prevention of serious accidents, 15 nuclear plants meet the regulation at the end of July and nine of them have already

resumed operations. Meanwhile more than twenty nuclear plants are destined for decommission. It is reckless to restart nuclear power plants with the possibility of severe accidents.

This committee of ours sticks to holding biannual meeting. From this term, JSA members from areas of Kyushu, Kansai, Miyagi, and others, who have great awareness of nuclear issues and are active in various ways, have been invited to join the committee. The committee size has thus swelled from twelve members to 21 members.

While it is not that easy for members scattered around the country to get together, by using the committee's mailing list we have prepared, we are going to exchange information intensely and even more enhance committee's activities. We also intend to work on various problems related to nuclear power in solidarity with civil movement.

Since 2018, we have been receiving a research grant on the theme of "Tasks and Examination; from verification of the Fukushima nuclear power plant accident to denuclearization and final disposal" and have been working to activate our activities. Each committee member is active in a variety of activities such as publications, presentations and lectures. We have compiled them and published a document. An interested person is asked to contact the central office of JSA to obtain a copy.

(Iwai Takashi, Chairman of the Nuclear Affairs Review Committee)

3) FIRST STUDY MEETING "UNIVERSITY AUTONOMY AND GOVERNANCE"

University Forum held the first study meeting on September 15 at Bunkyo Civic Center, Tokyo, where was reconsidered the original theory of university governance focusing on the establishment of president's leadership for the purpose to carry out university reform initiated by the Japanese government. In 2014 Central Education Council put the deliberations on the promotion of university governance reform into public, and in June, 2019, the cabinet decided to formulate the university governance code with the object of accelerating national university reform. Under such circumstances Association of National Universities wrote up the gist of university governance code.

Prof. Tabara (ex-President, Utsunomiya Univ.) "Problem of national university corporation": From his experience of university president he told that to perform university reform is possible without president's leadership, and pointed out that the present strengthening of president's leadership turned to be a means to control university.

Prof. Nonaka (Meiji Univ.) and Mr. Yamaga (Japan Federation of Private University) "On reform of the system of private university and subjects of university autonomy and democratization": They mainly argued over problem in amendments of Private School Act, and emphasized that those should guarantee publicity, making certain that although concrete phenomena between national and private universities are different, both have the point in common, that to examine for whom we should govern university and to whom we bear responsibility is important.

The term *university governance* is unfamiliar to most university staff, while we have an urgent task to create our own governance to support academic freedom and what responsibility we should bear.

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) HEAVY PARTICLE RADIOTHERAPY TO 'PROVIDE CURE FOR CANCER WITHOUT SURGERY' – PAST AND FUTURE OF GUNMA UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL COMMEMORATIVE SPEECH FOR GENERAL MEETING OF GUNMA BRANCH OF JSA

Kimitaka KOGURE (cooperative research fellow, general surgery, Gunma University)

The lecturer Kogure delivered by adding the latest findings to what he spoke at Yamagata University by request from JSA Yamagata branch in the end of the last year.

He explained from fundamentals on the heavy particle radiotherapy facility, using carbon ions, that has been operating since 2010 in the medical faculty of Gunma University. Conventional radiotherapy for 'cancer' uses X ray, but it cannot irradiate accurately to an organ located deep in a body, and damage adjacent organs. Heavy particles, on the other hand, irradiate from two direction to a deep area accurately.

There are limitations on applicable subjects using the therapy, but it provides drastic effect in a short term. Further, health insurance covers soft tissue cancer from 2016 and prostatic and parietal cancers from 2018, which have reduced burdens of patients.

The investment amount to the heavy particle radiotherapy facility of Gunma University borne by the university was about 500 million yen as the most parts were subsidized by the state and the prefecture, with significant private donations. Patients are queuing for three to four months; the facility has been scoring profits from the early stage. The lecturer provided easily understandable explanations on the facility, including the actual therapy practices.

He lastly explained how the hospital has been re-assigned as an advanced treatment hospital since April 2019 after being recognized of reformation related to issues that were pointed out after the cases of laparoscope of 2014.

(Takeo AOKI)

2) INTERIM REPORT ON LOW-DOSE EXPOSURE DUE TO THE FUKUSHIMA DAIICHI PLANT DISASTER

The project team on issues of atomic plant in the JSA Miyagi branch, on July 6, held a meeting to make announcement of the interim report on the aftermath of low-dose exposure caused by the Fukushima Daiichi disaster.

Miyagi branch has already issued a statement of the disposal problem of radiation-contaminated waste arisen at the Fukushima accident. Two years ago, I made an inspection of a precise picture of health damages caused by radiation exposure due to the Chernobyl disaster. The branch has reviewed the storage circumstances of radiation-contaminated waste in Tome, Kurihara, Osaki, and held round-table conferences with inhabitants of those cities. We also organized meetings to explain fundamental knowledge about radiation and exposure, and published a statement to oppose multi-fuel combustion of radiation-contaminated waste and general waste. The branch thus has kept a strong interest in disposal problem as a branch of neighbor prefecture.

The first year's task of research grant project is to collect fundamental papers along the line of *Chernobyl: Consequences of the Catastrophe for People and the Environment* (translated from Russian publication by Alexey V. Yablokov et al.) Another one is to grasp circumstances around us, for instance, to investigate changes of dose rate measured by monitoring posts the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (RNC) installed in all prefectures of the Tohoku Region.

The baseline of dose rate changes published by the RNC displays a clear decay curve. From the fact that the baseline rose when trial burnout was conducted at garbage incineration plant in Miyagi, we see radioactive substances scattered at the time of incineration. Such situation also has been observed extensively from Yamagata to the Northern Niigata.

The project team has a plan to more investigate dose rate changes in consideration of internal exposure effect.

3) HACHIOJI SCIENCE FORUM OF THE HACHIOJI BRANCH

7th Study Meeting (August 27, 2019)

We Change Politics—Results and Our Agendas with Igarashi Hitoshi, Professor Emeritus of Hosei University as the speaker, thirty people including six JSA members participated in the forum. This forum is routinely attended by a sizable. The speaker, noted for his humorous but sharp analysis of politics pointed out that, with Prime Minister Abe and President Trump as top leaders, now is the time of 'Taihen', that is, Very(tai) plus Crazy(hen), when the House of Councilors election was held where divide and conflict, widespread fake, torrent of hate, destruction of freedom and democracy prevail. With a low turnout, and (due to a major deceleration in media coverage and undermined issues of dispute,) there was not a large avalanche but a surface avalanche did take place and the settlement awaited the next lower house election.

Although the ruling parties "won", he regarded the LDP which lost the majority as lost and went on to analyze the situation of the opposition parties. He then mentioned the results of opposition parties and their future trends.

The breakthrough of "Reiwa" Party was a sign of dissatisfaction with and criticism against the present situation of politics and established political parties. He described it as a strong reinforcement as well as a tough rival for established political parties.

He pointed out that as the initiative for constitution change was suppressed retreats and concessions were seen in Abe's words and deeds that imply a procrastination. For instance, 'discussion instead of amending' 'not obsessive about the four points of amendment' and 'within my(Abe's) term of office'. The opposition alliance has been established and advanced, he said. While many of the 2016 Upper House candidates were incumbent or former members most of the candidates this time were fresh and late-starting. Even so the numbers of winners at single-seat constituencies quintupled from 2 to 10 thus overcoming the late-start. Policy agreements also showed an expansion from four points for the "five party agreement" in 2016 to seven points for the "requests" in 2017 and to 13 points for "shared policy" in 2019. He emphasized the necessity of parliamentary coalition of opposition parties, expansion of policy agreement and unified candidates in the general election as future challenges.

He concluded the lecture pointing out that civil and oppositional alliance for the general election should be accelerated and the way for that is to fight PM Abe's approach ,i.e., 'hiding, deceiving and lying', with the coalition 'not forgetting and not giving up with hand in hand' and it was the winning formula.

Questions and discussions were active and some attendant wished join the JSA.

Reported by Hashimoto Yoshihiro, Organizer

4) 2019 MEMORIAL SYMPOSIUM OF THE KANTO GREAT EARTHQUAKE "THE ACHIEVEMENT OF SEISMOLOGY AND PREPARATION FOR GREAT EARTHQUAKE"

The JSA Tokyo branch held the above symposium on 26 August, Tokyo, under the joint auspices of five related organizations, where Prof. Hirata (Earthquake Research Inst. The Univ. Tokyo) was invited as a lecturer.

The professor explained the reality of earthquake disaster cases as the Yamagata Offshore Earthquake (M6.7, June 18, 2019), the Hakkaido Eastern Iburi Earthquake (M6.7, September 8, 2018), and the Osaka Earthquake (M6.1, June 18, 2018), saying, even in case of the same magnitude, the details of damage are largely different, stressing that since seismic hazard is a socio-economic phenomenon the damage can be lessened according to measures. He further detailed damage anticipation of foreseen Nankai earthquake (M9) and Tokyo earthquake (M7) and emphasized the significance of disaster-prevention literacy. As to the coming Tokyo earthquake, he added that it is important to prepare disaster litigation measures on account that, if earthquake proofing construction is reinforced, death toll by the fall of building possibly will be reduced to 1/10, and, if a measure to prevent fire break-out is taken, death-toll in fire will be reduced to 1/20. Due to recent results of seismic research, measures against giant earthquakes were drastically altered on the basis of earthquake prediction. As to the Nankai earthquake, not "earthquake prediction information" but "temporary information on the Nankai earthquake" and "information on the related description" will be issued, and corresponding basic measures are taken to meet the situation by local governments, railway business operators, medical facilities, schools and et al, he mentioned.

From the lecture we have found that disaster prevention literacy is basically for better society and life, to this end we need comprehend regional nature and society as if we live there and learn the regional history of disaster and its prevention.

5) LECTURE "PRACTICE AND SUBJECT IN SOVEREIGN EDUCATION" HELD IN AICHI

On 1 September at Nagoya Institute of Technology a unique talk event *election catering* was held by Aichi University of Education collaborated with the students, the local government and elementary and junior high schools in Aichi, where Prof. Kiyota (Aichi Univ. Ed.) made a report concerning sovereign education. The moves of the Japanese young people became watched since the voting age was lowered to 18. The lecture told me something about what is the coming sovereign education in Japan's compulsory schooling.

- a) Teachers and students of the university in consort with the board of election and teachers and pupils of elementary and junior high schools carried out a mock election, in which I have seen a trial of university's social contribution. That shows the ways of sovereign education, I suppose.
- b) I got the impression that education and learning in university, especially social science, could be enriched through practical action in local society. Teachers and students could learn the ways of sovereign education through the cooperation with the locality, I thought.
- c) I expect this talk event in the stage of compulsory education could develop into the one that raises the self-conscience and political acquirement of children, supporters of the future world, as sovereign. As I recall, Janusz Korczak had practiced what is now called *citizenship education* at his asylum in Nazi-occupied Poland. At there all of child government, child diet, child election, child court and so forth had been administered by children.
- (Imai Shozo, Aichi branch)