

# **THE BULLETIN OF JSA**

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Chasu Bldg. 9F, 1-9-15 Yushima, Bunkyo-ku, Tokyo 113-0034, JAPAN

Fax: +81-3-3813-2363 <http://www.jsa.gr.jp/>

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***Lecture report from Tokachi Chapter, Hokkaido Branch***

***What will happen to the outcome of the election and the future Abe administration?  
Focusing on Economic Policy (“Abenomics”)***

On August 10th, Yoneda Mitsuru (Secretary General of the Tokyo Branch) delivered a lecture at the Tokachi Plaza (Obihiro City) with joint sponsorship of the Tokachi chapter and the Obihiro Innovation Conservazione.

The contents of the lecture are as follows:

I How to estimate the election results of Upper House of Councilors? The failure in maintaining two-thirds of the seats was a great blow to Prime Minister Abe's longing to reform Article 9 of the Constitution.

2) It became a driving force against the Abe ministry's ambition to reform the constitution in the success of a joint grass-root struggle by the citizens and the oppositions with overcoming the setbacks of the Democratic Party.

3) Even though the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) has failed in keeping the majority in the seats, we should not underestimate the public opinion that supports the Abe government. In particular, it is inevitable to remember that many young people are supporting the LDP and tend to be conservative.

4) It is important to qualitatively enhance the joint struggle by citizens and opposition parties and to realize a common policy of 13 items of the Citizens' Union and the five oppositions / parliamentary groups.

II The destructive effects of the development of Abenomics on the Japanese postwar economy.

1) There were two faces in the Japanese economy that got in the mud of the long-term depression.

① Gross national product (GDP) has been declining to the level of 500 trillion yen for 25 years since 1994.

② although rebuilding of the economy was declared the balance of government bonds tripled compared to 2000, and the balance of government debt reached the 200% level of gross domestic product (GDP). It should be criticized as irresponsible financial management.

2) Abenomics was promoted, but failed in overcoming the long-term depression. Ultimately, Abe committed a blunder.

III As for the future prospects, it is important for citizens not to be divided by neoliberal structural reform called Abenomics and to move back to the original wage society.

1) In case of great difference in the wage level between regular and non-regular workers, it is important to attain national consensus in order to realize the words “wage to possibly live a normal life if working normally (minimum annual income of 3 million yen and minimum hourly wage of 1500 yen)” proposed by Confederation of Trade Unions (Zenroren).

2) It is necessary to convert into the theory of welfare state, which places the highest priority on people's lives from that of economic growth, which relies on large corporations. After the lecture, questions were asked and opinions were as follows:

① How should today's young people get in touch in the-times when they get information on smartphones?

② In urban areas, as it can be seen in case of Reiwa Shinsengumi that , breakthrough phenomenon happens, and therefore it was necessary to create a common policy for consensus of citizens and voters.

(Sakamoto Takezo, Secretary General of Tokachi Chapter, Hokkaido Branch)

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***Okinawa Branch Regular Meeting, 2nd***

***"A talk on the constitution by a storyteller, a science researcher"***

The Okinawa Branch decided to hold a regular meeting at the time of the monthly branch secretary meeting from this term. This is an attempt not only to gather for branch operations but also to create a place where members can easily talk about their research and activity results.

In the first regular meeting, the branch secretary general, calling himself a microscope nerd, talked about the history of German optical maker, Zeiss, from a viewpoint of "a pioneer of white enterprises". This time, we heard a talk about an

educational practice from Mr. O, a science researcher.

Mr. O is a part-time instructor at a vocational school. On a day when he had a short extra time during his class, he gave a 15-minute lesson on the constitution. He concisely talked to the students about the three points of (a) principles of the constitution, (b) constitutionalism, and (c) importance of the very constant efforts, and then concluded as follows;

“Be interested in the constitution. Raise your voice and cheer on those who are raising their voice, when you notice that the state power is violating the constitution. I think it is the very constant effort to carry out the thing you can do at the respective place. “

After the class, 90% of the students write their voluntary impressions and/or opinions. 40% of them understood constitutionalism" for the first time and 25% intended to go to election. Particularly, the impressions of students with social experience were more positive than that of new graduate' students. Young people look to be often inspired by learning with not only homogeneous classmates but also people with social experience. In addition, students possibly notice that professional ethics and the human rights and peace philosophy of the Constitution of Japan resonate because of the school for ~~the~~ training high business workers. I think the meeting was needed a bit to be courageous in the current social situation and was fruitful.

These experiences are unique to small branch. On the other hand, the branch is also preparing public projects on important issues, such as lectures on the battle against the Henoko landfill construction, delivered by administrative scholars and a JSA member, constitutional scholar, who became a member of parliament this year. I want to grope and develop JSA characterized activities.

(Kameyama Norikazu, Okinawa Branch)

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***Report from Osaka Branch Philosophy Study Group, October 9, 2019***

***Lecture titled "Study the 'comfort women' problem / nuclear power plant problem with students" by Professor Ishikawa Yasuhiro (Kobe Jogakuin University)***

It is important for young people to learn social and political issues as national

people with sovereign. However, the voting rate of the young people is low. This time our theme was "Politics and Social Education at Universities: How young people are interested in and deepen understanding of social and political issues."

As a project of Ishikawa's seminar, Seminar students, when they are third-year students, visited to the house of *Nanum*, Korea, every year from 2004 to 2011, and to Fukushima disaster area damaged by the accident of TEPCO Fukushima Dai-ichi NPP every year from 2013 to 2019. They spent one night in Fukui and studied on no-NPP movement in 2012. Ishikawa talked about these issues using slides.

After the lecture, to the question asked how to deal with political issues in university education, Ishikawa answered "for issues where opinion disagreement, such as the *Yasukuni Shrine* problem concerned with history recognition, that is, whether they go or not go there, is big. Contacting information from both poles, students had better find out what they think is correct and work out an answer." Then students will grasp the content of opinion conflict objectively, not subjectively.

For instance, this is exactly the same as the science researcher's methodology of examining and evaluating the experimental and observational data. Students had better discuss which of the opposing hypotheses is correct, based on the materialism in the sense that it starts from real data.

The idea of "political neutrality of education" means that in Article 8.2 of the Basic Law of Education, neither party can stand in any position with respect to political parties. However, they tend to fall into idealism to avoid estimation which opinion is right or wrong in comparison with evidence data."

Next, Ishikawa answered the questions where the very independent actions come from. For instance, questions in case that students write about their experiences or give lectures outside the university. He said that there is a request for a lecture from the outside, and that students respond to one voluntarily, and that they are confident of their presentation because it is not an answer given but one led by themselves.

(Hitoshi Kono)

***Mini-course "Coal-combustion power plants and environmental assessment"***

***Yamaguchi Branch***

With the shutdown of nuclear power plants and the liberalization of electricity retailing, a number of coal-combustion power plants are being planned nationwide. In Ube City, Yamaguchi Ube Power (invested by Osaka Gas, Power Supply Development Co., Ltd. and Ube Industries) announced a plan of 1,200 MW in 2015. In the Environmental Impact Assessment Act, the opinions are issued from outside, mayor, governor, the Minister of Environment etc. at each stage of making forms of consideration book, method book, preparation book, and evaluation book by the enterpriser.

In the third mini-lecture this year, Sekine Masahiko (Professor, Faculty of Engineering, Yamaguchi University), who is working on river environment conservation and tidal flat restoration, explained the history and the outline of environmental assessment. He talked about the topics based on the ~~the~~ deliberations of the special subcommittee at the Environmental Impact Council, Ube City.

Opinions for the environmental consideration book was wanted from citizens according to a recruitment article in the city's public relations. Actually, there were few opinions. There was only a proposal from the council worrying about air pollution and CO<sub>2</sub> increase and anxiety was announced from the local governments and the ministry of environment.

After that, in April 2019, Osaka Gas expressed a withdrawal from the assessment process at the stage when opinions to the preparation book were submitted from mayor and governor. The plan of coal-combustion power plant has been derailed because of intensified price competition in the electric power retail liberalization and impossibility of investment collection in the future. The plans of large scale coal combustion power plant were canceled one after another national wide under pressure to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. Internationally, there are some other countries with coal combustion power plants running at a much higher rate than those in Japan. It has been questioned whether 22% of electric power supply from NPP will be allowed or not as a base load power source in 2030.

A total of 20 people from Ube and Bofu as well as Yamaguchi citizens attended the mini-course and inquired eagerly. Sekine showed that a part of the draft report to the mayor approved by the special committee was deleted without his permission by the chairman, and pointed out that it was important to gather the voices of citizens without entrusting a committee.

(Masuyama Hiroyuki, Yamaguchi Branch)

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***"Citizens' Opposition to Osaka Casino" Rally***

On September 14th, a rally was performed at the Step Hall, Toyonaka city, full of a total of 160 participants, Osaka Prefecture. At the rally, there were greetings from each party councilor opposing Osaka Casino, a resolution by the co-sponsoring organization, a general meeting for the first anniversary formation of the "Citizens' Association," and a speech by Attorney Takahashi Toshinobu entitled "Legal Issues of releasing from Casino Ban."

In a greeting from Nishizawa, Nobuyoshi representative of the association, and other speakers instilled strongly as follows; Osaka Casino plans to sell 380 billion yen a year. Inversely, it means that some people will lose 380 billion yen in total. The tax revenue is expected to be each 15% from the entrance fee 6,000 yen and the sales. There are 806 pachinko parlors in the whole Osaka prefecture, and the loss there is 215 billion yen. It can be seen how much money moves at one casino. There is no revitalization of the economy with casinos where a gamble bookmaker only make a profit.

A leaflet entitled "Not to get into gambling in the future," made by the Osaka Prefectural and Osaka City IR (Integrated Resort) Promotion Bureau last year, was distributed to all senior high school students through the Board of Education.

The leaflet states "a gamble is an entertainment to be enjoyed within the limits of the amount of money and time so that it will not disrupt normal living. Citizens claimed that it seems to recommend gambling to high school students and that it is not appropriate. They performed a residents' audit request and then filed with the district court.

In the lecture, the following issues were discussed: (a) private gambling has traditionally been considered an illegal criminal penalty. (b) the situation of gambling damage. (c) it seems as if it will be adjusted to Osaka, which is set to open the casino in 2024, the year before the Expo. (d) The measures against gambling addiction are completely inadequate and there are many problems of the casino implementation law. and (e) the lack of reflection of residents' intentions in the procedures.

At the venue, the October issue of “Journal of Japanese Scientists” featuring a special issue “Problems of Attracting Casinos” was exhibited, and 30 copies were purchased.

(Urano Toshio, Hyogo Branch)

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***“Science lecture to open the future” held***

Osaka Branch decided to hold “Science lecture to open the future” as an independent plan. The first season of the lecture “Mechanism of life” was planned to consist 5 courses. The first course was opened on October 26. Osaka Branch decided activity policies: (a) to grasp various phenomena and data with eyes of science in the current situation of Rampant fake, (b) to propose to solve problems by utilizing knowledge and method for analysis and investigation from the viewpoint of scientist, (c) to strengthen cooperation with citizens and (d) expand the places for scientific communication.

For a place by the practice, opening of a series of courses was decided, and the following items were discussed and proceeded in the executive meeting: (a) theme, (b) to whom, (c) how often, (d) where and how big the place is, (e) how to announce and how to perform the courses, (f) who gives the lecture, and (g) budget plan.

The theme of the first season was set to be “mechanism of life” so that we can learn the most advanced scientific knowledge and find answers after thinking together with the participants. The subject “What is the discipline to judge if science must or must not do for life?” was discussed, in order to understand “life” in the life science, such as DNA and its recombination, Genom edit, iPS cell, Regeneration medicine, which has



been advancing greatly, and work on an important problem based not only on “usefulness” but also on “safety”, “human rights”, “human dignity”.

The first course of the serial started from a lecture delivered entitled “How Should we associate with science?” by Ikeuchi Satoru. The hall was full of participants for set seats. An attendance subscriber exceeds 40 people for the second course and the later.

We are planning to continuously hold the second and the third seasons to create a new place for informing widely of the existence and its value of JSA and progressing JSA with citizens.

(Yamamoto Kenji, Secretary General of Osaka Branch)

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<p><b><i>Activities of the Private Company Engineers and Researchers Problem Committee (Private Committee)</i></b></p>
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<p><b><i>Committee of engineers and scientists' problems in private enterprise</i></b></p>
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<p>The regular committee (morning) and symposium (afternoon) have been held twice a year. The regular committee reports and discusses the activities of the affiliated branch, the progress and results of each research theme, and the status of major activities.</p>
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<p>Committee members have their own research themes, and have contributed to the citizens' movement by presenting their research to the Comprehensive Scientific Study Convention (CSSC), the Tokyo Science Symposium, the Kansai Engineer Researchers Conference (Kansai Gaku), The Kansai-area's colloquium for scientific workers in private enterprises (Kansai Coll.), “Journal of Japanese Scientists”, etc.</p>
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<p>The research covers regional pollution and the environment, nuclear abolition, linear program, aviation and railway safety and security, mobilization of researchers and engineers in military research, military use of cyber and space, integrated innovation strategies. Besides, there is a wide range of topics, such as theory of "power reduction," a people-oriented IT society, rights, status, and ethics of researchers, and work style</p>
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reforms. These themes and activity styles support the progress of research areas and the continuity of activities.

Symposiums are planned based on the results of committee members. At the previous symposium (2019.3.30), 20 people participated, and Osada Yoshihiro made a report titled "Let's work together to achieve a balanced and comprehensive development of academics against the pressure theory of 'reduction in research skill'." The report describes (a) the purpose and role of R & D by companies, which account for about 70% of the total R & D expenditure and the total number of researchers and engineers in Japan, (b) the actual situation of industry-academia collaboration, and (c) the flow and characteristics from basic research to applied research and innovation creation.

He pointed out that it is important to do research based on the principle of peace in the Constitution of Japan when discussing Japan's "decrease in research skill". There was a lively question and answer session to debate an important direction for the "research skill". The committee and the symposium were held only once last year due to budget cuts. It is necessary for the committee to get a budget for its own activities. It is difficult to grasp the trend of corporate R & D activities and the actual situation of researchers and engineers. Since the area of activity has been expanding and maintaining continuity, the participation of young researchers is an urgent issue.

(Osada Yoshihiro, Chairman of Private Committee)

[02-16-01] JJS Vol.55, No.2 February (2020), p.60(116)

***Report on the 2019 Hokkaido Science Symposium***

The Hokkaido Branch held Hokkaido Science Symposium in the morning of November 3, and in the afternoon a public symposium "Earthquake, Volcanic Disaster and Disaster Prevention" was held. Oka Takao (NPO Hokkaido Research Center of Geology) gave a talk entitled "How the Hokkaido Eastern Iburi Earthquake Occurred: Topography, Geological Conditions, and Geological Disasters". Yamagata Sadamu (Graduate School of Engineering, Hokkaido University) talked "Japan's First Blackout" It is the time to consider the power system for future Hokkaido ". Okada

Hiromu (Professor Emeritus, Hokkaido University) “Thinking in the 20th year since the 2000 eruption of Usu volcano - a fruit of collaboration in risk reduction despite the unsuccessful prediction. Then what’s now? The three topics were as follows;

Oka who had been involved in the geology of Atsuma-cho for a long time reported on the cause of the frequent landslides due to the earthquake. He pointed out the importance of surveying the differences of terrace sediments in the places to understand the collapse differences in the places, based on field survey conducted for a total of 40 days in 2018 and 2019. He also proposed the necessity of a wide-area survey and the need to analyze the collapse of slope sediments using the time axis.

Yamagata reported on the status of information disclosure by Hokuden (Hokkaido Electric Power Company, ~~Incorporated~~) and a proposal for local production and local consumption of electric power, as seen from the report of the Blackout Verification Committee of the regional power management promotion organization. Electricity demand in Hokkaido could be covered by natural energy even at maximum, and even with renewable energy, the large-scale power generation system would not be compatible with the abundant lives of the residents. It was pointed out that it was vital that the residents share the natural energy.

Okada reported on researcher’s way of life focussing on Ooinoue Yoshichika (Associate Professor, Hokkaido University and Tanakadate Hidezo (Assistant Professor, Hokkaido University), his colleague at that time, who contributed to the decision making of evacuation at the occasion of the Meiji-period eruption of Usuzan in collaboration with Iida Seiichi, a policeman (chief of Muroran Police). He also introduced Yoshida Teijiro (Kamifurano village chief), who said that Yoshida believed in Tanakadate when he thought "Who can be most trusted?" in the occasion of the 1926 Tokachidake volcanic mudflow disaster.

At the discussion session with the participants, they discussed local generation and consumption of electricity, problems of the method of selling electricity, significance of the safety net for the national electricity supply, and finally, whether the maintenance was mainly conducted by external consultants or by local residents, etc. Among the participants, Oka and Okada, there were also active discussions on the understanding of active fault.

Okada, who is well familiar with volcanoes and natural energies, has gained a trust as a scientist (a family doctor) from the local communities. The presence of such a scientist allows local residents to consider their own lives. It may foster knowledge about life as well as the geological topics (geology, volcanoes, wind, hydropower, the sun, etc.) that are the foundation of life. When the disaster occurred near our communities, I thought that earth science is an important knowledge that directly affects our lives.

Finally, the Yamagata also included the perspective of Ainu wisdoms on the use of nature and introduced Ainu Wisdom. Ainu place names accurately describe the specific features of the land. If you learn about the nature on the earth, the world you have seen will look different.

(Achira Yohei / Hokkaido Branch)

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***University Forum 3rd Symposium "Searching for an Open a University Image for All Citizens - From the Perspective of Diversity"***

The titled symposium above was held on November 2 at Ryukoku University Omiya Campus. A university as an academic center must be open to all citizens because it is a place where diversity should be highly evaluated. On the other hand, university reforms promoted by the current government have given priority to the economic policy. Four professors reported on the future of the university from the viewpoint of respect for diversity. Kajita Takaaki (Professor, the University of Tokyo), gave a talk entitled "Universities and Academics - the Current Situation and problems," which clarified the financial problems in which Japanese universities are currently facing, and actual conditions of researchers, especially those of junior researchers. It was also pointed out that the crisis in academic research was also a crisis of the region and education system. Mitsunari Miho (Nara Women's University) gave a talk entitled "Universities and Academics Contributing to Cultivation of Citizenship", emphasizing that academism is still gender blind. The speech of Nakayama Hiroyuki (Aichi University of Education) was entitled "Towards student growth and development,"

emphasizing the necessity of study fund. Hori Masaharu (Ritsumeikan University) reported on the reconsideration of forming university governance from a perspective of public administration, asserting measures to maintain university autonomy.

These reports raised the current state and a problem in universities composed of various people from a gender point of view, from a point of view of students entering universities with various abilities in a background, and from a point of view of University governance whereas there are various organization forms in national universities and private universities. Our future forums should highlight that diversity, while sharing current awareness. There were three big gatherings in Kyoto on the day, but this was the first university forum to be held locally, with 90 participants.

(Niwa Toru, Osaka Branch)

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### ***Activities of the Junior Researchers Issues Committee***

#### ***Junior Researchers Issues Committee***

Currently, the Junior Researchers Issues Committee is working to (1) promote the exchange and share the current issues among junior researchers, and (2) build a network for exchanging ideas among junior researchers. The committee consists of twelve researchers in their 30s and 40s, from seven branches in Hokkaido, Ibaraki, Tokyo, Aichi, Kyoto, Okayama and Hiroshima who have participated in FY (Fiscal Year) 2019. They agreed that currently teachers and researchers are becoming busier and busier with school affairs and education activities, and writing applications for research funds. The issues faced by contract teachers and researchers are piled up as social problems, which have not been solved yet. In this way, junior researchers are in very harsh research, working and living environments. Under these circumstances, the Junior Research issues Committee places an emphasis on the Junior Researchers' Academic Research Meeting (Junior University). For example, junior members who joined JSA during their graduate years and fortunately gained a job, but are isolated in the environment described above, while those who have no job are everywhere

throughout the country. The purpose of the project is for junior researchers to discuss and exchange their ideas with other researchers. Since the first meeting was held in 2016, every year there were more than 30 participants. There has been always lively discussion — it has been a valuable exchange opportunity for junior members. The Junior Researchers Issues Committee hopes to have similar projects in the future. Although it is a steady activity, I would like to consider the significance of JSA from junior perspectives through such exchange and learning among members. Junior members are welcome to participate.

(Kagami Taiki, Okayama Branch, Chair of the Junior Researchers Issues Committee)

[02-16-03(1)] JJS Vol.55, No.2 February (2020), p.62(118)

***Shizuoka Branch "Japan-Korea Problem" Symposium***

***A way to regain light in Japan-Korea relations***

In recent years, political issues and intergovernmental conflicts between Japan and South Korea have become rigorous and some media of both Japan and South Korea have raised opposition to the other country. This symposium discussed Japan-Korea relations from various perspectives, including legal, economic, public awareness, and cultural aspects, and sought a way to regain friendly relationship between them. Until now, the Shizuoka Chapter had often held symposiums and other events within the university, but this time at the Shizuoka Prefectural Industrial Economic Hall, the citizens, government, and various organizations were encouraged to participate. The symposium was held on March 24. The keynote speaker, Utsunomiya Kenji, former President of the Japan Federation of Bar Associations, gave a lecture on the theme "To solve the wartime labor mobilization problem." He talked about the fundamental issues of the 'Agreement Between Japan and Republic of Korea Concerning the settlement of Problems in regard to Property and Claims and Economic Cooperation' concluded in 1965, the legal elucidation of individual claims for damages, and the basic path to solving this issue.

Panel discussants included Park Keunho, a professor at Shizuoka University (Korean Economics and Asian Economics), Fukushima Minori, an associate professor

at Tokoha University (Modern Korean Socialism, Youth and Gender Studies), and a student group of Shizuoka Prefectural University, Yasuoka Haruki and others from the Youth Empowerment Committee (YEC) at Shizuoka Prefectural University. Under the coordination of Sasahara Megumi (Vice President of Shizuoka University), a branch member, YEC provided topics, and discussed with Utsunomiya and others from various perspectives. Questions and answers as well as opinions were so enthusiastically given so that it felt like two hours had passed in a moment.

There were about 100 individual participants and many donations. Back issues of "The Journal of Japanese Scientists" were also very popular. In the questionnaire, there were many thankful voices saying, "I want the Scientist Conference to hold this kind of symposium again in the future " and "I wish to see a second one." (Mizutani Yoichi, Shizuoka Branch)

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***Open Lecture "40 Years of tree-ring studies:***

***What We See and What We Don't Know"***

***Toyama Branch***

On November 9, 2019, we held a JSA Toyama Branch public lecture entitled above at Toyama Prefectural Hall from 2:00 pm to 3:30 pm. The speaker was Kato Terutaka (NPO: Tateyama Association for Nature Conservation).

Forty years ago, Kato began his cedar *tree-ring* analysis for his public health course in an attempt to explore the effects of past air pollution. He found that the ring width of cedar was closely related to past sulfur oxide air pollution in the Fukui Plain and in Toyama Prefecture.

Meanwhile, Kato reported that ~~although~~ he had tried to help in a research for the cause of death of Wakayama Prefecture's specific tree, "Kishu Minabe no Nanko-ume", in summer, i.e. in August and September, unfortunately, his analysis was in vain. Now he thinks that he has to look at the tree density in addition to the tree-ring width.

Kato's talk also included a chapter entitled "When beeches are fatter, bears are thinner." In years with low fertility in the mountains, black bears in the mountains

tend to advance to human settlements, resulting in the extermination of many bears as harmful beasts. In such a year, beech can photosynthetic products on the growth of wood, so its tree-ring width becomes wider.

Also, in beech rich year, a large amount of energy is consumed for seed/nut production, so the beech annual ring width becomes extremely narrow, and black bears can enjoy a large amount of nuts. So black bears do not need to go out of the mountains in search for food, and the number of captured animals is reduced.

From the both results it is clear that the peaks and valleys are in excellent agreement.

On the other hand, it was estimated that a similar relationship can be found between the number of scattered cedar pollen and the tree-ring width, but it turned out it was not as simple as the case of beech.

The lectures were attended by about 10 people, and the symposium was full of enthusiasm, with about 10 participants, who consisted of members of the Toyama Branch, citizens, and graduate students of the Faculty of Biological Sciences.  
(Yukieda Makoto, Toyama Branch)

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***30-Year Evening for Personal Membership Activities in Tokyo Branch***

***- Let's talk together, let's use the results of science in our lives -***

On November 10, 2019, an evening lecture was held at Chuo University Korakuen Campus, to commemorate 30 years of personal membership activities, hoping for further growth. This evening coincided with a pre-event for the Tokyo Science Symposium hosted by the Tokyo Branch, which was celebrating its 20th anniversary.

Since in 1989, the personal membership ratio exceeded 30% of the whole, the significance of the role began to be discussed. From the following year on, personal membership news was issued and fieldwork was carried out. Eventually, delegates to the branch convention began to be elected also from personal members. Last year, 2019 is the 30th anniversary of personal membership.

The full-fledged activities began with the first personal—membership meeting



established in March 1990 and the personal membership caretakers meeting in June. Since then, we have continued to overcome many difficulties with the publication of personal membership newsletter and the membership fieldworks (hereinafter referred to as FW) as the main activities. This was thanks to the efforts of many people, mainly the personal membership representatives.

The following three points have been raised as characteristics of individual member activities in recent years.

- a) Enhancement and strengthening of individual membership' newsletters
- b) Enhancement of the FWs to promote exchanges and cooperation that cross the boundaries between the personal membership and the Tokyo metropolitan area chapters
- c) Specific considerations of activities for new personal member

Reviewing the activity results in light of these, the next outcome has been obtained. (a) the success of personal membership's FW on the themes related to the Great East Japan Earthquakes, (b) the expansion of non-member contributors, involving non-member citizens, to the newsletters the enrichment of timely article contents, (c) the personal members' achievements, such as a collection of 30-year activity materials by Tokyo Branch personal members (planned). Such results have been highly evaluated.

On the other hand, new activities such as community activities and JSA-like workshops are at the level of research and trials. Activities that open up prospects for the future are at a standstill. In addition, it is time to seriously consider the situation of fixed and aging personal membership caretakers' associations and the fact that they rely on a small number of members for most of their work as issues for the Tokyo Branch. In the evening of 30 years, we had a panel discussion to consider the issues.

First of all, in the mini-lecture "Talking about the activities of personal membership", three people talked about "10 years memory" as a break of the activities.

Nonaka Ikue, the first caretaker, talked about the difficulties in the early days from the beginning. Kitamura Minoru, former Chairman of JSA, supported the activity constantly, focused on fieldworks for ten years of the 2000s when the activity was established. The current caretaker- Kinugawa Kiyoko talked about the increase in the number of juniors, women, and citizens over the past 10 years, significance and challenges of the key persons who have supported the Tokyo Branch, as well as the delegates to the branch convention from personal membership.

Following the discussion, we moved on to the “Collaboration with New Citizens in the 21st Century”. As a panelist, Ikegami Sachie, former Secretary of the Board, explained the role of JSA in the activities of women researchers who have been facing difficulties. Sakuma Hidetoshi, the former secretary general presented the future direction of personal membership activities in cooperation with the Chapter meeting. In the discussions, panelists and participants actively gave frank and constructive opinions and suggestions. We talked about the next 30 years, thinking of having a small gathering to commemorate 30th anniversary.

(Kawakami Shigeru, Tokyo Branch, Personal Membership Representative)

[03-18-01] JJS Vol.55, No.3 March (2020), p.52(172)
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***Held the 35th Kyushu Okinawa Symposium***

***Miyazaki Branch***

The Japan Scientists’ Association (JSA) Miyazaki Branch and Kyushu Okinawa District held the 35th Kyushu Okinawa Regional Symposium at Miyazaki Civic Plaza on November 30. According to the main theme "Toward Peaceful and Sustainable Society", six reports on "peace issues" and three on "university issues" were submitted and the participants discussed.

Related to the "Peace Issues", the status quo of the reinforcement of the US Forces and the Japanese Self-Defense Force was reported and the protest actions against them in Okinawa were featured. Peace-related lawsuit issues, e.g. unconstitutional US-Japan Security Treaty (Ampo), noise pollution around the Self-Defense Force Nyutabaru Air Base, and the topic about the scientists meeting of the World Conference against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs (Gensuikyo) held in Fukuoka in August followed. Further, they told about the Olympic, the truce-peace-thoughts, the lawsuit demanding injunction against Sendai nuclear power plant (NPP) which belongs to the Kyushu Electric Power Co (Kyuden), and so on. Thanks to the variety of reports, we had a good opportunity to consider peace-issues multi-dimensionally.

Concerning the “University Problems,” closely related to peace issues, the trend of military research at Oita University was reported. Then, it was pointed out that local

national universities, e.g. Miyazaki University, suffered from financial shortage and too much authorization of university president. The participants were deeply affected with such a terrible finance and governance situations in local universities and sometimes gave voices of surprise.

The symposium was attended by five branches from Kyushu-Okinawa area. About 30 participants, including non-members, told actively their opinions each other. Through a social gathering after the symposium, 15 participants could deepen their relationship.

On the following day (December 1), four participants from four branches visited the Self-Defense Force Nyutabaru Air Base, an ongoing dispute site of noise pollution lawsuit, with the guidance of the "Saito Koyu Peace Committee". It was on Sunday, no maneuver day, and they could not experience the terrible explosive noise. However, it was possible to know how large the base is and how closely the neighboring residential area lies.

The reports given at the symposium were "Peace Issues": (1) Kameyama Norikazu (JSA Peace Research Committee): "The status quo of the reinforcement of the US Forces in Japan and Japanese Self-Defense Force and a prospect to conquer it: From a viewpoint of Okinawa", (2) Goto Yoshinari (Lawsuit against the unconstitutional US-Japan Security Treaty (Ampo) Miyazaki-no-kai): "Approach to Miyazaki's lawsuit against the unconstitutional Ampo-related legislation", (3) Nishida Ryuji (Chief Secretary of lawyers of the lawsuit against Nyutabaru Air Base noise pollution): "A report of lawsuit against Nyutabaru Air Base noise pollution: the meaning of the first litigating tactics concentrated on the Self-Defense Force base", (4) Kobayakawa Yoshihisa (Fukuoka Branch): "Report of the Scientists Meeting in the World Conference against Atomic and Hydrogen Bomb (Gensuikyo) in Fukuoka", (5) Goto Yoshinari (Miyazaki Branch): "Report of the injunction lawsuit against Sendai NPP, the Kyushu Electric Power Co (Kyuden)", (6) Okada Takeshi (Kagoshima Branch): "Olympic games, truce and peace thoughts". "University Problems", (7) Goda Koji (JSA Oita Branch): "Military research and governance at Oita University", (8) Hirano Kimitaka (Miyazaki Branch): "Invisible financial shortage at local national universities hidden from the Miyazaki University Financial Report", (9) Goda Kodai (Oita Branch): "Governance of Oita University: A Front-runner of too much authorization of the presidents in Japanese universities-"

(Kinoshita Osamu, Executive Director)

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***The first `` Regional Issues Study Group '' held  
Kagoshima Branch***

On Wednesday, November 27, 2019, the first debriefing session of the "Regional Issues Study Group", which was launched mainly by former members, was held in the group study room of the Kagoshima University Library. One of the initiators, Nakamura Masafumi (Professor Emeritus, Kagoshima University) reported on the theme of "Think about regional issues: Some disputed points." There were 11 participants.

He presented seven issues to think about regional issues: (1) areas as living spheres (rural urbanization, erosion of farmlands by factories and residential areas), (2) population dynamics and structure (low fertility rate and aging, labor drain from rural areas), (3) local industries (decreasing food self-sufficiency rate due to agriculture cut-off policy, necessity of agricultural restructuring), (4) unequal development and disparities in local areas (outbreak of hierarchy between cities), (5) local autonomy and residentship (the importance of residents' self-government), (6) development of towns and villages enabling people to live with peace of mind (necessity of community revitalization), and (7) regional empowerment (importance of citizen movements initiated by associations such as cooperatives).

In response to Nakamura's report, an audience said that he would like to know more Kagoshima faces to.

Following his report, participants exchanged opinions concerning ~~about~~ the direction of the "Study Group" and raised matters to be considered such as: (1) the problem of particularly severe youth decline (declining fertility rate and outflow of young workers from the prefecture) in Kagoshima, (2) the problem of school retrenchment due to the consolidation and abolition, (3) the rethink about the Heisei merger of cities, towns etc.,(4) the problems of disaster and disaster prevention, and (5) the problems of foreign workers.

The next “Study Group” will be held using the “Kagoshima Prefectural Government Visiting Seminar” conducted by Kagoshima Prefecture.  
(Yamamoto Kazuya, Kagoshima Branch)

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***Activities of the National Public Examination and Research Institute Issues Committee (National Public Research Institute Committee)***  
***National Public Examination and Research Institute Issues Committee***

The National Public Research Institute Committee is one of the issue-oriented special committees and works on issues of research institutes which are founded by state or municipalities. Most of the national research institutes became independent administrative corporations in 2001 as part of the so-called "Hashimoto Gyokaku (administrative reformation under Prime Minister Hashimoto)". Since the system of independent administrative institution itself means budget reductions (and consequent reductions in staffing), contrary to the governmental expectations, the ability to carry out research has weakened and the organization has been exhausted. The organizations are managed on the basis of “Medium- to Long-Term Objectives” for 5 or 7 years and occasionally required to obey the short-sighted administrative growth strategy by the chief directors who are designated through “Prime minister's Personnel Affairs”. This made basic and fundamental researches from a long-term perspective difficult. A considerable number of public research institutions were also ~~been~~ transformed into "local independent administrative corporations." Now, various types of administrative corporations exist and each organization suffers from its inherent problems.

The negative effects of administrative corporations led to serious situations at national universities, too. The National Public Research Institute Committee has been working to clarify these issues from an institutional perspective. Recent results were four articles which were published in the special issue of “Requesting an Independent Administrative Corporation” in the December 2019 issue of “Journal of Japanese Scientists”. Most of the problems common to incorporated research institutions,

universities, and other organizations have been attributed to institutional design to reduce budgets mechanically. In other words, the reform of the system itself is indispensable to improve the situation of independent administrative agencies corporations. Therefore, it is necessary in the future to work in solidarity with those who belong to various incorporated organizations institutes and to develop a campaign to improve the system.

As with other committees, the National Public Research Institute Committee is an aging organization. We hope members belonging to national research institutions will join in our committee. In addition, we request that researchers in administrative organizations will take up independent administrative agencies and will be involved in our committee.

(Kotaki Toyomi, Chairman of the National Public Research Institute Committee)

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***Enjoy the annual fieldwork (FW) “grown-up social studies tour ”***

***Saitama Branch***

Saitama Branch enjoys the FW tour of facilities and historic spots inside and outside the prefecture as a series of Grown-up Social Study Tour” about twice a year in spring and autumn. This time, we planned to go around Kazo city and Hanyu city in the northeast of Saitama prefecture.

On November 23 (holiday, Sunday), unfortunately, it was raining from the morning, but seven people including the elderly National Secretariat with his family shared the three cars and left Kuki station. At first, we visited Kazo Miraikan (future center). This facility is famous for its "worldwide first 8K digital planetarium which is the most beautiful in Japan with the cheapest entrance fee (100 yen!)." Comfortably in relaxed chairs, dreamingly listened to a pleasant narration all around the dome of a starry sky, grown-ups were very satisfied with Kazo's specialty udon (noodles) at the on-site restaurant. Kids were absorbed in experiencing science toys.

After that, with the guidance of Director Emura (branch secretary), we made a study tour of the "Ogoshi Kazo Insect Museum" which was moved from Ogoshi town to Kazo

city, reopened alongside Tone river, in May 2019. With about 100,000 specimen collections, it is one of the nationwide largest private-owned insect museums which is operated by members of the Saitama Insect Association and publicly known through city's bulletin. We could see Green Ridges, designated as a prefectural butterfly, other rare butterflies, and beautiful scarab beetles. The elderly National Secretariat with knowledge of almost entomologist was very excited about his visitor souvenir of preservation-soaked hornet specimen.

Final destination was the Saitama Prefectural Aquarium, located in neighboring city Hanyu, which has a nationwide unique collection of freshwater fish. Fortunately, we were exempted from entrance fee for a special holiday. Huge colored carp were swimming in the outside pond, full of children feeding them. Inside the hall was crowded with families to see Miyako Tanago, designated as a special national treasure, Musashi Tomiyo, designated as a prefectural fish, other domestic and foreign rare species and some ordinary freshwater fish. Before we went home, it stopped raining. Our group was there dissolved and JSA Saitama Branch could complete the FW tour successfully.

(Nyu Kiyosato, Secretary General of Saitama Branch)

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***A Joint Lecture of Scientists' Meeting of "Article 9 Association" and JSA  
Danger of Abe's military expansion and AI weapons***

The JSA and the scientists' meeting of "Article 9 Association" collaborated to have a lecture entitled "The Goal of Abe Army Expansion" at Chuo University on November 16, 2019.

Under the title of "Questioning the present situation of the US-Japan Security Treaty (Ampo) ", Koketsu Atsushi (Meiji University) kicked off and stated: The Japanese Self-Defense Force (SDF) which is now going to be a "Defense Force" under the command of the US Army and acquires also a function of a political organization had an origin of "Guardian Régime of pre-war National Polity (Kokutai)." However, it was (re)integrated in the post-war Ampo-résime in which "rearmament" and "partial

peace treaty” were condoned in the frame of the new Japanese Constitution. The fundamental contradiction of the post-war age derives from this prehistory. Further, he insisted: "Civilian control" was harmoniously theorized in the United States from the fear of political involvement of the military and the vigilance of the military-industrial complex. Therefore, "the coexistence of democracy and militarism is absolutely impossible. Such an assumption as if democracy and militarism were unifiable is far from reality and applicable only to justify admitting military logics. On the basis of this recognition, he argued that, along with the increasing the rate of consumption tax and the reduction of education and research budgets, the annual military expansion of more than 5 trillion yen with the externally set threats to China and North Korea is oriented to the US military and Ampo-résime, instead of Japanese people and landscape. He appealed to the participants: We need now a peace strategy in order to refuse "Abe's military expansion" based on "the fabrication through delusional threat".

Koganezawa Koichi (Tokai University) introduced the status quo and functions of AI-equipped automatic weapons such as unmanned assault aircrafts and pointed out problems in his speech entitled "Development of Self-Controlled Weapons encouraged by Armament Competition and the Current State of Counter Movements". He criticized that the Medium Term Defense Program referring to the deployment start of unmanned aircraft unit and those equipment which emasculate enemy's radar and communication systems is premised on “stand-off electronic warfare” which enables control and combat apart from enemy (Aegis Ashore and F35 also belong to it). In the argument of the United Nations, US, Russia, Israel and China opposed the prohibition of "murder robotic weapons" by reason of "International Humanitarian Law". Koganezawa wondered if AI would comply with the norms of Geneva Convention and its Additional Protocol. On the other hand, he introduced movements against wartime mobilization of employees of development companies (Microsoft and Google). (Matsui Yasutoshi, individual member of JSA)

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***Member recruitment and branch activities***

***Miyagi Branch***



Fortunately, the Miyagi Branch has welcome four fresh members in this term. All of them are incumbent faculty members at universities and technical colleges. One person in his 50s, three persons in their 30s including a female member. This enrollment of three young persons is a result of invitation talking from their senior incumbent faculty members. This is a wonderful type of experience which leads to membership enlargement. Simultaneously, retired teachers make effort to expand our membership. There is a mutual positive effect. The branch requests young members to give lectures for branch learning courses that are held every two months. Thanks to attractive research theme and pioneering content, the learning courses make the branch activities lively.

There are three pillars of branch activities. The first is the role of the branch secretary, where monthly activities are carried out; bimonthly secretary / permanent committee meetings, branch news publication, dispatch of "Journal of Japanese scientists", payment of dues, and so on. In addition, we have branch lectures and "Journal of Japanese scientists" reading sessions every two months. A monthly meeting with meals, "the Society for the Study of the World," is also held ~~every month~~, in which every branch member can join freely.

The second pillar consists of members' activities in various fields. The branch has been participating in the Miyagi Prefectural Citizens' Center, which supports recovery from East Japan Earthquake Disaster nine years ago. The recovery support requires a comprehensive approach and plays an important role. Concerning ~~about~~ the nuclear accident of Fukushima Daiichi NPP, we have held a symposium promoted by the fund of the JSA National Research Committee. NPP and radioactive contamination are important issues of the branch activities.

The third is to make use of "Journal of Japanese scientists". We try to extract enough contents in reading sessions in order to encourage branch activities. To think about the privatization of the water-supply business in Miyagi Prefecture, articles of its special issue in August were timely. We thank for editorial committee's effort and intend to make the most of it.

(Ogasawara Taku)

***Overview of the 20th Tokyo Science Symposium***

The Tokyo Branch held the biennial Tokyo Science Symposium at the Chuo University Tama Campus (Hachioji City) on November 30 and December 1, 2019. The theme was “Creating a Peaceful Age of Reason and Hope — Let's Realize! Dignity of Individuals and Reassurance of Life.” After greetings from the Executive Committee Chairman, two special reports, 20 subcommittees (71 reports), and 5 exhibitions and 4 poster sessions were held and exhibited. This was the 20th symposium, and three pre-events were also held, including a specially planned Peace Concert. A total of 86 people participated in the pre-events, and 157 people (cumulative 268 people) participated in this symposium, for a total of 354 people.

In the special reports session, lectures were addressed by Minami Akira (Chairman of the Central Executive Committee of the Newspaper Labor Federation, from the Asahi Shimbun Labor Union), entitled "News Incident in Journalism -1 To Confront Strengthening Power" and Uenishi Mitsuko (Professor, Hosei University), entitled, "'Society of Choice of Various Work Styles' and Workers' Rights."

In the subcommittees, there were many active discussions under the varieties of themes: constitutional reform, abolition of nuclear weapons, war and literature salon, military and academic joint, hate speech, rights of female researchers and engineers, activities of graduate students and young scientists, 3.11 and reconstruction, disaster issues, criticism of the current state of science and technology, science and technology salon, development of natural science, IT technology and civil society, linear shinkansen issues, reform of Japanese capitalism, true labor reform, linkage between education and poverty in Japan, peace Issues, Japanese food and agriculture, problems in higher educations.

At that time, we were facing serious problems such as: reform of Article 9 of the Constitution, nuclear power plant restart and export, widening economic disparity, consumption tax increase, magnified disaster damage such as typhoons, destruction of university autonomy and strengthening of education control, and falsification of information and concealment of fraud, etc. The symposium was held at a time when the joint struggle of opposition parties, supported by various civil movements, began to make solid progress.

The Executive Committee held the symposium as (1) a historical event of JSA, (2) a place where research activities were conducted at the largest branch event this year, (3) a place to show the significance of JSA to society, (4) a place for expanding members, and (5) a place for information exchange among members. We have taken them for success of the symposium by participation of all members. We affirm that we have been able to hold a milestone of the 20th symposium with the cooperation of many members and citizens. We thank all those who participated and cooperated. We also believe that the theme set was just right in light of the situation and the demands of members and citizens, hoping to accommodate requests and expectations by the members and the citizens. We also had member talking sessions and cultural projects, many of them dealt with issues such as inconsistencies in the modern society and violations of civil rights.

In December, we welcomed eight new members, and we are inviting non-members who have participated in the symposium to join us.

(Sakuma Hidetoshi, Executive Director of the Symposium Executive Committee)

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***Kagoshima Branch held a public symposium "Trees and urban environment".***

On December 21, 2019, Kagoshima Branch held a public symposium on the theme of "trees and urban environment" at the Yoka Center Kagoshima located in front of Kagoshima Chuo Station.

This symposium originated from a movement to protest the tree felling plan at Kagoshima University. Building Inamori Memorial Hall on campus, the university had planned to cut down 14 large trees of camphor and ginkgo in order to build a parking lot for visitors. Faculty and staff unions and students gathered for ballot to collect signatures against the plan and negotiated with the university. University authorities eventually abandoned the plan to cut down the trees. This "incident" was widely published in local newspapers, too.

In response to these on-campus and out-of-campus movements, global warming and the accompanying disasters and the heat island phenomenon in cities have become serious problems, so there was a voice among us, 'let's make a symposium for citizens to consider the issue of "trees and urban environment"'. That is how the symposium was planned.

At the symposium on the 21st, there were three talks namely, "Desertification of cities due to the disappearance of green spaces" (Masatoshi Satoh, Faculty of Science, Kagoshima University), " United green – greens from dots to lines, and to the surface –" (Tsutomu Nozaki, Faculty of Engineering, Kagoshima Univ. (retired)) and "German tree protection and the urban environment" (Nakajima Daisuke, Faculty of Law, Kagoshima Univ. Faculty of Law and Literature), and Nozaki's report proposed the creation of a biotope (biological habitat) " and the shadings of street tree, lowering of road surface temperature by forming water-retaining pavement, aggressive tree planting, enlarging trees, and widening the area as measures for achieving as a "city coexisting with nature." Nakajima's report introduced the tree protection legal system in Germany, such as the Tree Registry.

Fifty citizens joined this symposium. We noticed that compared with Germany, we still have less awareness for conservationism. Some also talked about problems of tree protection in Kagoshima. The participants discussed so enthusiastically that we finished the symposium later than the time schedule.

(Minoru Oguri, Kagoshima Branch)

***Activities of the Committee of Scientists' Rights***

***The committee of scientists' rights***

The committee of scientists' rights (Committee) has been working with the aim of improving the rights and status of researchers and establishing ethics in order to "protect the life and rights of scientists, improve research conditions and democratize research organizations, and protect freedom in academic research" and to "oppose to antisocial use of science and promote use of science for progress of mankind" as stated in the bylaw of JSA. Committee worked on solving individual cases of rights infringement such as unfair dismissal and discrimination of researchers. Since 2000, a series of situations that cannot be dealt individually have arisen, and the rights and ethics of researchers and engineering scientists have become a social issue. In order to deal with these situations, a "Declaration of Rights" and a "Code of Ethics" were required to be prepared, and the central role was entrusted to the Commission. The proposal was to be turned in, and adopted at the 38th Annual Meeting of the JSA (2007), but there was no agreement then but it was publicized as a "Report on Researchers' Rights, Status, and Ethics" (report document).

Thirteen years after the publication of the report, violation of researchers' rights, status, and ethics have become more serious due to institutional and budgetary leading of science for national and industrial policies and major reforms of universities and research institutions. As a result, we have witness terrible situations such as military-academic joint research, research misconduct, and employment. In order for JSA to effectively deal with these changes in circumstances, the National Board of Directors has raised the need to formulate a charter of scientific rights and ethical

guidelines. We propose that the report be disseminated and that revisions and reinforcements be made in line with the current situation.

This year's committee confirmed to issue a joint proposal report on research misconduct resolutions at the national convention, to undertake tasks to respond to requests for special projects from the JJS Editorial Committee, to setup a subcommittee at the 23<sup>rd</sup> Comprehensive Scientific Study Convention, the operation structure for the next year, and to call for participation to Committee toward members who are currently on the job.

(NYU Kiyosato)

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***Shiga Branch Lecture Study Session***

***Report on "Disaster and Disaster --- Prevention-Past and Present"***

A branch lecture study meeting was held at the Kusatsu Community Development Center on November 23, 2019. Shiki Tsunemasa (Professor Emeritus, Kyoto University) gave a lecture on the title theme. First, Shiki emphasized, "Disasters are becoming severe and changing properties, artificial factors are causing complexity, and unexpected things can happen in living spaces in nature."

The Japanese archipelago has very poor geological conditions. "Foresee" is impossible, but "forecast" is possible. Seismic and volcanic activities due to natural factors are now in active period. The frequent occurrence of heavy rains and floods is undeniably affected by global warming

Shiga prefecture has Lake Biwa and alluvial fan, is characterized by ceiling rivers located at several places, and the alluvial fan has habitable area, but it is of geographical condition that is easily affected by flood and debris flow.

The Yodo River water system, like the Seta River (Uji River), spreads from Lake Biwa to the Osaka Plain. Disasters tend to shift negative effects onto downstream, and the historical conflict on flood control between Shiga and Osaka has not been resolved. In the past, the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport established the Yodogawa River Basin Committee, and made positive proposals. However, the

proposals have since then backed down in the ministry.

It is also important to use hazard maps (HM). In the floods in the *Mabi-cho* district of *Kurashiki* City last year, the red zone almost coincided with the disaster area. Municipalities are obliged to create HM, but many have not progressed. It is desirable to incorporate the history of the land and the wisdom of the inhabitants. It is recommendable to use HM for disaster countermeasures, settlement selection, and evacuation routes.

In the cases of recent abnormal precipitation, the risk of destruction increases due to the load on the structure. Damage may be caused by levee breaks due to emergency water discharge or sudden increase of the volume of water downstream.

The 70-80% of the causes of levee breaks due to the enlargement of the typhoon are attributed to "overwater". Previously, a relatively inexpensive and effective construction method of protecting the slope of the embankment on the residential area side with a sheet or the like had been developed. It is a pity that this method has disappeared. For the time being, such embankment strengthening should be implemented.

The speaker concluded by saying "It is important to consider re-examination of land use involving scientists."

The branch conducted field work on feeding damages caused by deer at *Reisenzan* in October last year, and problem consciousness raised that time was a trigger to this lecture.

(Mizuhara Wataru, Secretary General of Shiga Branch)

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***The abolition of the Seed Act and the establishment of the 'Mie Tane Network'***

On April 14, 2017, the abolition of the main crop seed law (seed law) for rice, wheat, and soybeans was passed by the House of Councilors at a plenary session by majority votes from LDP, Komei Party and others, so the

law was abolished on April 1, 2018. The simple question of "why? Why?" was widespread on this issue, with low recognition among a wide range of people, not only among producers but also consumers.

In response to this situation, the prefectural governments that have been improving breeds of rice and others and supplying seeds have decided to enact ordinances with the same content as the seed law because of the concern that losing the basis law would make this important business impossible. With the spread of the movement and the abolition of the seed law by the government, the "local rebellion" has expanded, and 13 prefectures have already enacted the ordinances.

In Mie Prefecture, Governor Suzuki said at the prefectural assembly plenary meeting in September that in response to requests from the agricultural cooperatives and the prefectural rice and wheat association to establish ordinances, he announced that "a new ordinance will be enacted to dispel concerns about seed production." At present, the prefectural authorities have made a "draft," and public comments on this have ended in January. The prefectural authorities will submit a draft ordinance to Congress in June and it is expected to be enacted.

Therefore, in order that ordinance will would be properly established in Mie Prefecture, the *Mie Tane* Network was established on November 8, 2019 by farmers, researchers and citizen activists. They submitted a request for enactment of ordinance to the prefecture. In the request, they require that the public organization continuously produces and manages excellent seeds, which is the philosophy of the old seed law, and maintains and develops the current system disseminating it to farmers at low cost. They also request that the prefecture should be responsible for formulating seed plans. Furthermore, they call for the establishment of a system for conducting examinations of fields and the necessary financial measures and staffing. In addition, measures to expand target varieties based on the regional characteristics of Mie Prefecture, protection of the right of farmers to collect their own crops, and prevention of leakage of seed information to companies handling genetically modified crops were also included. Seeds are the lifeblood of eating. We are thinking about various creative approaches.



(Maeda Sadataka, Mie Branch)

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***On unjust return of money of Kanden and nuclear power plants  
Fukui Branch***

The money worth 320 million yen from Eiji Moriyama (deceased), the former Assistant Mayor of Takahama Town, located in Fukui Prefecture, to the Kansai Electric Power Company (Kanden) is the unjust return money for the "Corrupted nuclear power money," and the source of the money is the electricity cost paid by the public. The supervision responsibilities of the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry and the Government, Prime Minister Abe Shinzo, who have approved the price increase twice, are grave.

The return of "corrupted nuclear power money" was revealed as an incident that was inseparable from the national policy of promoting nuclear power. In particular, the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry had four secondees to Takahama Town since 2008 until recently (currently one). The time when the secondment has started coincides with the time when the government was promoting pluthermal power generation (a part of fuel uses uranium and plutonium mixed oxide fuel). It has become clear that the seconded employees from the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry were involved in the formulation of a regional promotion plan that approved the budget in exchange for the introduction of pluthermal.

More Importantly, Prime Minister Abe claims that he is awaiting an investigation by a "third party committee" set up by the executives of Kanden, the perpetrators who committed the wrongdoing. We argue that "third party committee" created by the parties who receive the money cannot be a "third party organization". The Diet should exercise the right to investigate national politics, by inviting Kanden officials to referees, in order to bring the matter to light.

A letter of indictment was filed with the Osaka District Public Prosecutor on December 13, 2019, with 3,272 people from 47 prefectures. It ordered that 12 Kanden

officers be investigated and prosecuted for offenses, that is, special breach or bribery. Attornies for 99 people were scheduled appear on January 31, 2020. We should activate further movement to find out the truth of the illegal thank you act for the ¥nuclear power management, to win "equivalent to prosecution".  
(Masahiko Yamamoto, Fukui Branch)

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***Public lecture "Development of Autonomous Robot Weapons and Movement for Banning it"***

***Yamaguchi Branch***

Yamaguchi University's application for budget for the promotion of security technology research of the Defense Agency was accepted for the fiscal year of 2019 (FY2019).

Professor Koganezawa of Tokai University was invited as a lecturer to a public lecture meeting on topic in the title held in mid-December 2019. More than 50 people listened to Prof. Koganezawa's lecture eagerly and asked questions. The lecture's abstract is as follows:

The government plans to promote new formation of unmanned aerial vehicles, introduction of electronic warfare aircraft, and development of autonomous robotic weapons equipped with AI in the medium term defense program from the fiscal year 2019. Robots have autonomy and act without human intervention. Several countries have already deployed drone attack aircraft and unmanned armored vehicles in combat.

Robot weapons are semi-autonomous, autonomous with surveillance, and fully autonomous depending on the degree of autonomy. There are many reports of non-combatants indiscriminately killed in the past, even by semi-autonomous robots to which humans make decisions on engagement. In the future, if a fully autonomous robot using AI starts acting, it is feared, the robot will run away without knowing the

reason commanded its AI. On the other hand, prominent intellectuals and researchers of AI and robot have spoken out against the development of fully autonomous robotic weapons, there are movements in the United Nations to enact a ban treaty.

During questions and answers, we have learned that the Aegis system is usually semi-autonomous, and humans will be ordered to engage in the battle in case it happens. There was an introduction about an opposing approach against military research in Tokai University, too.

(Masuyama Hiroyuki, Yamaguchi Branch)