

THE BULLETIN OF JSA

No.163, January 25, 2021

Edited and published by

THE JAPAN SCIENTISTS' ASSOCIATION

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“Discuss disaster countermeasures in future”

JSA Hyogo branch

On August 22, the JSA Hyogo branch held its postponed 2020 general meeting and the commemorative forum "Disaster Countermeasures in the New Corona Era" in Kobe. At the forum MUROSAKI Yoshiteru (Professor, Graduate School of Disaster Resilience and Governance, University of Hyogo) gave a lecture and the participants discussed about it.

From the standpoint that there are some common principles between the natural disasters such as earthquakes and heavy rains and the infectious diseases, Murosaki described the hazards, risks, panics, and damages resulted from crises. Then, he argued as follows:

1. Recognition of crisis (fear scientifically)

In our aged and overcrowded societies, risks become more complicated and disasters cause more often widespread and prolonged damages. On the other hand, infectious diseases are characterized by persistent, complex and unforeseeable risks. We must pay attention to the fact that infections affect us not only economically but also psychologically.

2. Crisis control (prepare correctly)

To prepare correctly, it is important to universalize and systematize the lessons from enormous natural disasters in and out of Japan in past days and to adapt such disaster countermeasures for the today's COVID-19 infection. For example, in the realm of evacuation planning, we have learned the importance of considering individual and local peculiarities seriously. In fact, there were some negative experiences that too much standardized measures enlarged damages unexpectedly. Someone emphasize "a new lifestyle". But retaining our human relationships is rather more important than keeping physical (social) distances.

3. Disaster countermeasures in the corona era

The second and third waves of the COVID-19 infection are unavoidable. We must prepare for the explosive spread of the epidemic. However, countermeasure against the multiple disasters should not be simplified into a risk management: We

must at first deal with the COVID-19 on the macro-perspective, but we must simultaneously give disaster countermeasures the priority on the micro-perspective. We have witnessed the problem of volunteer shortage in the recovery process from the heavy rain disaster in Kyushu in 2020.

Regarding the concept of disaster evacuation, it is important to distinguish between emergency evacuation and evacuee condition. A fundamental problem is that the condition of evacuation centers is too miserable.

It is also regrettable that excessive consciousness about the COVID-19 results in hesitating support activities after natural disasters. Theoretically, "disaster mitigation" and "infectious disease prevention" are not contradictory. But such an idealistic notion is not always correct in the cases of emergency. It is necessary to consider, for example, until when mud should be removed, how many personnel are required for it, and where we can recruit them. To handle such tasks, we should mobilize various forces actively.

Regarding recovery process from natural disasters, it seems indispensable to foster future-oriented societies without falling into a trap of so-called "reconstruction disaster". To keywords for this purpose belong, for example, rapid restoration of life, work and ecology (victim proofs, reconstruction and repair, temporary accommodations), safe community planning, and revitalization of local economies and local communities. In the question and answer session after his lecture, we exchanged our opinions and discussed about: differences of hazards, risks, crises and damages, problems of evacuee condition (referring to foreign cases in contrast to Japan where schools are likely to be assigned to evacuation centers), hazard maps, the concept of "disaster mitigation", and so on.

(HIROMORI Katsuhisa, Secretary General of Hyogo Branch)

[11-20-02(1)] JJS Vol.55, No.11 November (2020), p.54 (670)

Okinawa Branch Regular Meeting (On-Line)

"How to Create Public Opinion against Weapons with 'Enemy Base Attack Capability'"

The regular meeting was held on August 27, 2020. It was the fourth on-line

meeting since May. With 14 participants, audiences were not fewer than those of conventional style of non-remote meetings. Some members were not good at IT. As a new attempt, we sent invitations to the Kyushu-Okinawa area committee and the Peace Issues Research Committee, and there were some participants from outside of Okinawa. This means a new potentiality to enlarge our branch activities in the future.

Possession of weapons with "enemy base attack capability" is out of the question, because it is an unconstitutional and reckless choice which might at worst escalate into an initiative attack. On the other hand, many students, in spite of their peace education at Ryukyu University, Okinawa, have the opinion that "the US military and the Japanese Self-Defense Forces are necessary considering the menace of North Korea and China." We worry about whether they might be vulnerable to admit the "enemy base attack capability" discourse based on the theory of menace and deterrence. Such a simple cliché "it is unconstitutional, so not allowed" is no longer persuasive.

With this in mind, a member who specializes in the constitution at first pointed out that the LDP's proposal lacked constitutional consciousness perfectly. On the context of the constitutional criticism, normative theory and political theory are so closely related each other that the argument whether a proposal is unconstitutional or not is indispensable in policy-making process. The legally binding of the Constitution, especially Article 9, is still firm. In addition, the LDP's proposal which is questionable from the standpoint of the constitutionalism disregards the parliament and local autonomy: If the local communities would be forced to compose civilian protection plans according to the national government, they were probably the objects of retaliatory attacks from the hostile countries. This is another reason why the LDP's proposal is an irrational security policy.

From the military viewpoint, the USA has already lost its absolute hegemony against China. The US military attempted to build temporary fortresses on the islands and to enable simultaneous missile-attack cooperated with the existing air and navy forces. The Japanese Self-Defense Forces are destined to be involved into this scenario.

The Constitution of Japan formulates some measures to prevent war. It matters that practicality and rationality exists on the side of the Constitution, not in the unconstitutional and irrational LDP's proposal. We should investigate how to appeal it simply and clearly.

(KAMEYAMA Norikazu, Okinawa branch)

“Activities of the National Disaster Research Committee”

JSA Disaster Research Committee

In recent years, natural disasters occurred frequently all over Japan. The Disaster Problem Research Committee is working in order to analyze disaster factors comprehensively based on inquiries in disaster areas. In 2019, the committee implemented two on-the-spot surveys; on October 9, the 15th typhoon disaster in southern part of Boso peninsula, Chiba prefecture; and on November 6/7, a flood damage survey in the Chikuma River area, Nagano prefecture, after the 19th typhoon. In the disaster subcommittee of the 20th Tokyo Science Symposium held in December, participants discussed about: (1) "Intensified and widespread heavy rain disasters", (2) "Problem of bringing surplus soil into the valley planned in Hachioji", (3) "Safety of the Yamba dam after its full-capacity", and (4) "Stop evolution of natural phenomena into disasters". Respectively, it was reported that: (1) failures of river system management are hidden behind the frequent occurrence of heavy rain disasters, (2) there is a risk of landslide disaster because surplus soil generated by construction work has been carelessly buried in hill valley, (3) needed is a reassessment of the environmental influences and the geologic stabilities in and around the Yamba dam, Gunma prefecture, which in spite of some problems will be complete in 2019, and that (4) disasters include both of natural and social factors and the latter criteria should be stressed for the purpose of disaster mitigation.

Functioning virtually as an information desk of the national league for disaster victims support action (Saitairen), this committee has contributed to its relief projects actively. In 2019, the committee participated in the "National Victims Interaction Meeting" held in Otsuchi-town, Iwate prefecture on November 24/25, and contacted several disaster victims support groups from all over Japan.

Looking forward to the 2020th year, the committee intends to set up a "disaster subcommittee" in 23rd Comprehensive Scientific Study Convention (Sogaku), to thematize "Tonankai Trough Earthquake", and to grasp this earthquake disaster multi-dimensionally. We hope many members with interest will visit the subcommittee and the committee itself.

(NAKAYAMA Toshio, Chair of the Disaster Research Committee)

Mageshima Problem: 2020 1st

"Science open space" holding report

We would like to report on the lecture for citizens held at Kagoshima University on August 24, sponsored by the Kagoshima Branch. Under the title "A Topic of Militarization in Kagoshima-Mageshima Problem", lecturer NAKAMURA Masafumi (Professor Emeritus of Kagoshima University) explained about the recent construction of a US Naval and Self-Defense Force (SDF) training base in Mageshima, Kagoshima Prefecture (at the west of Tanegashima).

Nakamura organized the information about the conditions necessary for the construction of the training grounds, and mentioned the geographical position of Mageshima in the SDF-related facilities in western Japan, and the possibility of constructing a large-scale residential facility that was currently an uninhabited island. After that, he explained the situation where local residents were at the mercy between inducing local interests and opposition to the base construction.

This lecture was held in combination with "Zoom" so that many people could participate even during the COVID-19 Pandemic. Thanks to that, there were participants from Osaka and Okinawa, and lively discussions were held, but the pointed that seemed to be the most important were summarized below.

It was pointed out by KAMEYAMA Norikazu (JSA Okinawa Branch). In summary, the issues of the partial relocation of US military bases to mainland Japan were sometimes discussed in connection with the reduction of the burden of U. S. Military Bases in Okinawa, but this time, the construction of Mageshima did not lead to the reduction of it. The purpose was to enable landing operation training that could not be carried out at bases in Okinawa, and it was pointed out that the background was the need to strengthen armaments and training assuming ground occupation operations in third countries.

It was pointed out that if we were going to oppose the construction of a base against these, it would be important to pursue the danger of accidents in the surrounding area.

It was concluded at the venue that it was necessary to widely share informations

such as newspaper articles collected and analyzed by Nakamura and to have a common understanding of the base problem including Okinawa.

(IMAI Hiroshi, Secretary General of Kagoshima Branch)

[11-20-03(2)] JJS Vol.55, No.11 November (2020), p.55 (671)

Kagoshima Branch 2020 1st Joint Review Meeting Report

On July 20, the Kagoshima branch held a joint review meeting on the special feature titled "Scientific culture for common sense in Japan" published in the issue of "Journal of Japanese Scientists", May 2020. The reporter was IMAI Hiroshi (Kagoshima University, The Institute for Comprehensive Education, Center for General Education).

The special feature points-out that students have become less sensitive to issues of natural science and have lost the habit of thinking systematically from the basics and understanding the essence, and that in Japan, the word "science and technology oriented country" has been walking alone, and secondary education has been changing to focus on entrance examinations, and also that Science students continue to memorize without thinking objectively about the value of things.

At the university Universities in such a situation, even science students Even science students are not very much interested in natural phenomena. On the other hand, liberal arts students feel guilty about learning these sciences after they go through frustration. Some members argue that it is not necessary to take liberal arts courses that are not directly related to specialized education. There is still much debate about the roles and divisions of various educational subjects.

Based on these, Imai summarized that the aims of liberal arts education would be the following two points. 1) To invite people to acquire scientific common sense in society and motivate them to become a habit of lifelong learning. 2) To motivates a deep understanding of the basic principles and concepts of the natural world, including humans.

The following points were pointed out as current issues of concern from these perspectives.

- (1) Is it possible to balance the compulsory subjects for the first year of the university, which deal with the contents requested by society, and the liberal arts subjects, which invite the deepening of the academic field?
- (2) Will the content of deepening liberal arts be discussed firmly?
- (3) How to develop well-educated human resources involved in primary and secondary education?

(NEDACHI Munetomo, Kagoshima branch)

[12-20-01] JJS Vol.55, No.12 December (2020), p.55 (727)
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“A newly planned all-hands symposium”

JSA Osaka Branch

In 2019, the Osaka Branch held a symposium entitled “Science Course to Open the Future” aiming at gaining publicity of the Japan Scientists’ Association to expand membership and to raise activity funds by inviting a wide range of citizens. Although the fifth course of the first season “Mechanism of Life” has been postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, about 50 people participated in each of the 4 courses already held. We were able to welcome new members and JJS (Journal of Japanese Scientists) readers by earning more than lecturer’s honorarium and venue fee from the admission fee and JJS sales.

After repeated discussions at the executive committee on how to implement the second during this corona pandemic disaster we have decided to hold a series of symposia using the Zoom Meeting system under the following conditions.

- (1) Everyone will freely exchange opinions with the full participation by members.
- (2) Scholars, researchers, and experts with thematic knowledge will participate as advisors.
- (3) Advisors also participate in discussions at the same stage as participants.
- (4) The general public can also participate in addition to JSA members and JJS readers.
- (5) No membership fee will be required. Discussions will be promoted by using both remarks and chat at the Zoom venue.

Whereas the general theme was set to be “Considering the Future of the New

Society”, the first symposium was held on September 26, 2020, with the theme of “COVID-19 and Infectious Disease Control --- How to Capture and Combat with Corona Virus Disease”. The participants were 13 members of JSA and all of them first announced their motives for participation and what they would like to discuss in depth.

The discussion began with real topics such as “I can’t afford to think about post-Corona. We have to discuss what to do right now.” “I can't even visit my hospitalized family, but Isn't there anything I can do?” “Why can't PCR testing be expanded.” After hearing all the opinions, SOKAWA Yoshihiro of the Kyoto Branch joined the discussion as an advisor. He stimulated active exchanges of opinions and organized topics such as “What is the new Coronavirus”, “Analysis and evaluation of current status of infection spread” “Necessity and impediment of expanding PCR tests”

In response to the suggestion, "Let's send out what we were able to share together," we sent out a "call" to the national convention being held the next day.

The results of the discussions at the symposium were summarized in "call", and we were able to create a style of
(in order of numbers),

- (1) expressing and sharing everyone's awareness of problems,
- (2) organizing issues by advisors
- (3) sharing insights and perspectives on themes
- (4) summarizing and disseminating.

Before concluding the symposium, positioning the first as a prologue, the theme of the second was tentatively decided to be "from urban concentration to decentralization; digitization, labor”.

(YAMAMOTO Kenji, Secretary General of Osaka Branch)

[12-20-02(1)] JJS Vol.55, No.12 December (2020), p.56 (728)

On-line Fukuoka Nuclear Issues Study Group at Zoom

"Latest information on new coronavirus COVID-19"

The Fukuoka Nuclear Issues Study Group held an on-line study group on August

29, 2020, and asked MORINAGA Toru to provide us with the topic of the title. Partly because it was a hot topic, there were 11 more participants than usual.

The number of papers related to COVID-19 has been increasing exponentially, and it is said that it exceeded 20,000 as early as July 2020 alone. Based on these latest papers, Morinaga described the number and mortality of COVID-19 infections, symptoms, sequelae, infection route, incubation period, infectious period, testing method, and unknown factors (factor X). A detailed report was given on infection prevention.

Over 80% of COVID-19 patients have a fever and about half change their taste sensations. The mortality rate of COVID-19 was about 2%, which was lower than that of SARS (about 11%) and MERS (about 35%), but it spread rapidly. As a sequela, about 60% of cases had psychological dysfunction such as anxiety and fear in addition to sleep disorders. Various cases have been reported in which the saliva sample test not only makes it easy to collect the sample and prevents infection to medical staff, but also has high detection sensitivity and is excellent. In addition, it was introduced that the immunity decreases with aging and causes susceptibility to infection and carcinogenesis, but the immunity can be increased by moderate exercising. There were 50 research papers cited for this talk.

Finally, the experimental results of OKUDA Tomoaki (Professor, Keio University) on the particle collection effect of masks (there is a video on the net) were introduced. Compared to the surgical mask, the “*abenomask*” can collect only around 20% of when used as it is, but when four pieces of small gauze are inserted, it has a similar particle collection effect as the surgical mask.

(MIYOSHI Eisaku, Fukuoka Branch)

[12-20-02(2)] JJS Vol.55, No.12 December (2020), p.56 (728)

<i>"National Symposium for Female Researchers and Engineers" to be held on-line in December 2020</i>

<i>JSA Female Researcher / Engineer Committee</i>
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The Committee of Female Researchers and Engineers has held the "National
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Symposium on Female Researchers and Engineers" 14 times, approximately once every four years. The 15th symposium in December 2020 will be held on-line to prevent the spread of new coronavirus infection, and we are currently preparing for it. Since it is an on-line symposium, the program will be shortened, but we would like to make it more intensive.

In recent years, I can only feel how deep the gender discrimination in the Japanese society has been rooted. The politicians who make disdain for women have been increasing, and the goal of 30% of women in the "leading position" that they should have been achieved by the end of this year has been postponed, and the income gap has not been filled at all. According to estimates by the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare, the monthly salary of female regular employees is only about 71-75% of that of men for the past five years, and according to a survey by the National Tax Agency, women's annual income is about half of men. According to "Gender Gap Index 2020" conducted by the World Economic Forum, Japan is on the lowest 121st place ever. Japan is about to be left behind from the whole world.

There is no doubt that it is a structural problem in today's society that women are at a disadvantage over men. At this symposium, we would like to clarify the structural problems.

The 15th National Symposium on Female Researchers and Engineers "Japan with Gender Gap-Reality of Female Researchers" will be held at Zoom on Saturday, December 12, 2020 from 9:30 to 12:00. You can Register for participation at the JSA Female Researcher / Engineers Committee web page. We look forward to many participations.

(SASAKURA Mariko, Chair of *Female Researcher / Engineer Committee*)

[12-20-03(1)] JJS Vol.55, No.12 December (2020), p.57 (729)

A new world opened by the corona wreck

Kansai Engineer Researcher Roundtable (Kansai Meeting) September Meeting Report

Many of the members of Kansai Kai are retired from private companies and research institutes, and have illnesses according to their age. The risk of going out under the corona wreck is immeasurable. Therefore, we decided to challenge the on-line meeting from the state where everyone was the first time. We tried to control our own self-assertive attitudes to finally start a public meeting on September 13.

On the day of the event, we exchanged our opinions on the "climate crisis", using the September issue of "*Journal Japanese Scientists*" as our text. DEGUCHI, one of the authors, reported on the efforts to achieve the unanimous adoption of the Climate Emergency Declaration at the Akashi City Council, and KOBAYASHI, the Kansai student representative of FFF (Fridays for Future), reported on the efforts of the Global Climate Net and solicited more participations. Subsequently UEZONO Masatake of Hokkai-Gakuen University talked about "What is required for the national and local governments to realize climate crisis countermeasures" (quarterly "Autonomy and Decentralization" No.80) based on the articles below;

"Creating a scenario to set and achieve a regional carbon budget", "Implementing a trial calculation of a regional economic analysis showing cost effectiveness", "Sharing the values that the renewable energy business develops the local community and improves the quality of life" , "Energy Independence Area Concept", "Importance of Intermediate Support Organizations" to realize them, etc.

What is necessary in order to take the climate emergency declaration one step further and to prevent climate crisis? We shared lessons from raised issues, by sharing the practices and experiences.

Kansai Roundtable has selected themes that interest participants, to share hot topics from time to time, and has continued to hold the meetings as a place for reporting, raising issues, and exchanging opinions. Although it became difficult to gather due to the corona virus, by trying on-line meetings, we came to be able to open a new connection beyond the fixed frame of the participating members and the regional frame of Kansai.

(YAMAMOTO Kenji, Osaka Branch)

A branch regular meeting, "What COVID-19 asks us" was held

The Mie branch held the above-mentioned study group at the 54th branch regular general meeting on August 8 in order to visualize and confirm what is happening in the world under the countermeasures against the corona infection.

Reporters are SHIKU Hiroshi (Professor of Mie University), ISHIHARA Yosuke (Director of Student Department, Mie Junior College, Financial Theory), KIMURA Natsumi (Lawyer), OKAMOTO Ichiro (University Cooperative Business Association), and KATSUNAGA Tomoya (Mie Prefectural Insurance Medical Association Secretariat).

Shiku of Mie University School of Medicine, the moderator of this meeting, introduced the new corona under the title of "About the new corona and its infection --- an introductory note."

Ishihara reported on "The new corona 'from the perspective of the student director' --- what is happening at the students". Realistic conditions such as remote study, eg, living condition of students who could not work part-time, and job hunting were discussed.

Kimura's "Consultation related to the new coronavirus" is a report on the free telephone counseling held by the "Consultation Committee to Protect Lives and Livelihood" since April. It is said that there were consultations regarding dismissal / suspension, non-payment of leave allowance, and penalties for cancellation of the wedding hall.

Okamoto's "New Corona and Student Support" reported on the efforts of the National University Cooperatives in Japan to support students. There, the co-op went to a student condominium to sell lunch boxes, and the "action to cut tuition fee to half" of FREE, a project to free higher education tuition fee, was reported.

Katsunaga's, "Impact of COVID-19 on Medical Institutions, Especially Clinics," reported on the temporary handling of medical fees, the actual amount of PCR tests, and the lack of alcohol and masks necessary for infectious disease control.

The reports were transcribed and published in "Mie Branch News" on September 11, 2020.

(MAEDA Sadataka, Secretary General of Mie Branch)

JSA Web Symposium Series

***"Modern civil society questioned by COVID-19;
the 3rd symposium; education in schools under COVID-19 pandemic"***

On October 31, 2020, the symposium of the above header was held on-line at Zoom, with 49 participants. This symposium was planned mainly by pedagogical researchers of the JSA branch of Tokyo Metropolitan University.

The first report was "Preparation of Curriculum and Execution of Classes under COVID-19 pandemic" by ISHIGAKI Masaya (Public Elementary School Teacher, Shiga). The Prime Minister's sudden request for closure of schools in March 2020 was criticized in that the decision-making process was absolutely lacking consideration for actual situation of children. In addition, at schools, in order to catch up with the delay caused by COVID-19, 7-hour lessons per day and Saturday lessons are held, and it is said that the situation is such that "children are forced to study hard." The Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology says that it is okay to have less than the standard number of class hours, but it was pointed out that the number of classes is too large in the first place. It was stated that issues of on-line lessons are not a simple discussion of whether they are correct or not, but that it is necessary to think carefully about the individual child, including the information environment at home. Especially in the education up to the lower grades of elementary school, it was emphasized that it is necessary to have a relationship of such that pupils can honestly saying say "I don't know" and that it requires a relationship of trust with the living body between the actual human beings.

The second report was by KUZUMAKI Makio (private high school teacher, Tokyo), "The reality and challenges of high school education that have come to light in COVID-19 pandemic." First, it was stated that "on-line lessons reveal disparities." Only the top 10% of high schools fully support on-line classes. Kuzumaki said that there are many high schools that use both staggered school attendance and on-line. One of the positive things about on-line lessons was that they were able to provide small-group education through staggered school attendance. On the other hand, on the negative side, he said that the school as a "open space," that fosters cooperatives

through casual conversations and events other than classes, has been lost.

In response to these reports, ARAI Fumiaki and MIYASHITA Yohei of Tokyo Metropolitan University commented, respectively. One comment cited a survey by the Asahi Shimbun, which reports there is a large disparity in the ownership rate of smartphones that support on-line classes and the length of summer vacation between Setagaya Ward / Shibuya Ward and Edogawa Ward / Adachi Ward reflecting income disparity. In addition, a warning was given that the ICT / GIGA school concept promoted by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology would further widen the educational disparity. On the contrary, it was pointed out that the importance of careful education based on the circumstances of individual children, which can only be done offline (real), is increasing because uniform on-line lessons are introduced in various fields.

As for myself, on-line lectures continue this year, and seminars are also on-line. While I felt the great benefits of on-line, I also felt that it was unsatisfactory. I was reminded of the importance of thinking about the pros and cons of on-line not only from the perspective of lecture methods, but from the learning of individual and ~~concrete~~ specific students.

The Web Symposium Series has reached its third time. The COVID-19 pandemic still affects many aspects of our society and requires critical analysis from various angles. This is exactly the theme that JSA should work on. I have high expectations for planning from each member's specialty. If you have any ideas, please feel free to contact us.

SATO Katsuharu (JSA Social Activities Department, Ohtsuki City College)

[01-21-02(1)] JJS Vol.56, No.1 January (2021), p.54 (54)
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Movement of each branch regarding the issue of refusal to appoint members of the 25th Science Council of Japan

When appointing members of the 25th Science Council of Japan starting in October 2020, Prime Minister SUGA Yoshihide refused to appoint six ~~people~~ persons in the nomination list without clarifying the reason. He has been questioned in the

Diet on why he did not appoint them, but as of November 11, the reason has not yet been explained. Many academic societies, academic leagues, and various other organizations have issued protest statements calling for the withdrawal of the refusal to appoint. According to a group of scholars who oppose security-related laws, as of November 4, there are 687 academic societies that have issued statements, 41 for university / research institutes, 25 for organizations of university and 38 for organizations of legal professionals.

JSA issued a statement by the secretary-general on October 2nd, a statement by the executive committee on the 7th, and a message by the representative secretary of the executive committee, MASUKAWA Toshihide on the 12th. Protest statements were issued one after another from each branch. In the order of presentation, As of November 11, the secretariat has counted 21 branches from Kyoto, Shiga, Fukuoka, Tochigi, Tokyo, Ehime, Gifu, Chiba, Yamaguchi, Osaka, Saitama, Aichi, Akita, Miyagi, Kanagawa, Mie, Hyogo, Fukui, Hokkaido and Kochi issued statement as branch or under the names of their executive committee. In addition, the Musashino Tsuken Subcommittee of the Tokyo Branch issued a statement. Further, we have received reports of issuance of statements by gathering of citizens and university members of Shiga city who think about the issue of refusal to appoint members of the Science Council of Japan, Shiga University former president MIYAMOTO Kenichi, teachers and former teachers of Okayama University who are interested in the matter, and members and researchers of Kanagawa University who are interested in the matter. Those reports came from branches of JSA. Branches and members are believed to have played a major role in issuing these statements. The statements were covered by various media and contributed to publicizing this issue.

Inaccurate information has been disseminated around this issue, and unprovoked criticisms and issues have been replaced, such as "Is it okay to follow the precedent?" "The Science Council just wants to protect vested interests," and "The membership composition is biased." It is necessary to convey the essence of the problem of infringement of academic freedom in an easy-to-understand manner according to each specialty of members of JSA.

(KOTAKI Toyomi, Director of JSA Organization Department)

Kyoto Branch / Kinki Area Pre-event for the 23rd Comprehensive Scientific Study Convention

"Looking at the post-corona"

As a pre-event for the 23rd Comprehensive Scientific Study Convention, a lecture meeting on the above title was held at Zoom from 10:30 to 15:00 on Sunday, October 18th. The number of participants was 17. The program is as follows. "Looking at the Post-Corona; Trends and Countermeasures for COVID-19 Pandemic" (SOKAWA Yoshio), "University under COVID-19 Pandemic" (MAEDA Koji), "Students' Learning under COVID-19 Pandemic" (HOSOKAWA Takashi & FREE Kyoto Students).

Sokawa explained the properties and immune function of the new coronavirus, and emphasized that the vaccine under development is not useful in protecting against the new corona infection, and that a drastic expansion of PCR tests is necessary to stop the spread of infection. He pointed out that this corona pandemic was brought about by the "plague" of neoliberalism.

Maeda introduced the implementation status of full -on-line classes in the last semester of his university, the problems faced by faculty and students, and the advantages and disadvantages of on-line classes. In particular, he pointed out the rigor of learning for the first-year students. He pointed out that, since the second semester, he reaffirmed the importance of face-to-face activities at the university, and potentials of various forms of hybrid lessons in post-corona and the challenges for that.

Hosokawa reported as he considered on Japanese universities under COVID-19 pandemic, focusing on three points: (1) the poor public financial expenditures as a background of Japan's high tuition fees, (2) the statement of the private university federation regarding tuition fees expressed under COVID-19 pandemic, and (3) prospect of expansion of public expense for higher education. The report focused on the role that private universities play in higher education in Japan. The second-year students who are active in FREE Kyoto and studying at a private university described the current state of their learning in the first semester and also introduced the requests that FREE Kyoto has been working on toward Kyoto Prefecture and Kyoto City. At the university where this student studies, only him/herself participates in the activity,

but it was impressive that the efforts have spread beyond the border of universities.
(SOKAWA Yoshihiro, MAESA Koji, HOSOKAWA Takashi, Kyoto Branch)

[01-21-03(1)] JJS Vol.56, No.1 January (2021), p.55 (55)
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INES-sponsored international on-line conference

Participant's report

The above titled on-line conference was held on September 19, 2020. The organizers were INES (International Network of Engineers and Scientists) and others. The purpose of the conference was to ratify the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and to disseminate an international campaign to overcome global warming.

There were a total of 16 participants, one or two from countries such as Germany, France, the United Kingdom, Belgium, and Switzerland, and two from Japan. The language used was English and there was no interpreter. First, Lucas Wirl of INES and Daniel Högsta of ICAN explained the current situation and asked for cooperation in the campaign. Subsequently, lively discussions took place among the participants. The main remarks are made at the conference as follows.

- (1) We have been under threat of nuclear extinction since the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki 75 years ago.
- (2) We must overcome the threats of the 21st century, nuclear war and global warming, in the COVID-19 pandemic and the subsequent recession.
- (3) Europe is now under pressure to make the next choice. Will it (A) remain part of the arms race or (B) free Europe from the threat of nuclear weapons?
- (4) Our organizational group will work together to strengthen the movement to ratify and implement the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.
- (5) We will participate in efforts to change European policy on nuclear weapons in line with the following three requirements.
 - (A) Sign and ratify the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.
 - (B) Stop the European government modernizing any nuclear weapon.
 - (C) Organize a working group to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, expand our efforts in the future, solidify

solidarity with other groups, and refine the 2021 campaign strategy.
(YAMAMOTO Fujio, Director of International Department)

[01-21-03(2)] JJS Vol.56, No.1 January (2021), p.55 (55)
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Lecture by IKEUCHI, "When scientists get involved in military research"

On October 14, 2020, a lecture by IKEUCHI Satoru (Professor Emeritus, Nagoya University) was held on-line, sponsored by the JSA branch of University of Tsukuba Chapter and three other parties.

In December 2018, the University of Tsukuba formulated the "Basic Policy on Military Research at the University of Tsukuba" to not conduct military research. But only one year later, contrary to that, it applied for the "Institution" research project S type of the Defense Equipment Agency's "Promotion System of Security Technology Research" and was adopted. Regarding this, NAGATA, President of the University of Tsukuba has been controversial by repeating "unique" explanations such as "There is no problem unless it is research on attacking."

Prior to Ikeuchi's lecture, KODERA Takayuki, the secretary general of the Japanese Coalition against Military Research in Academia, that is one of the host organizations, reported on the outline of protest against the University of Tsukuba about acquisition of funds for the "Security Technology Research Promotion System" conducted by the association on March 11.

After that, Ikeuchi gave a lecture entitled "When scientists get involved in military research." First of all, the funds of the Acquisition, Technology and Logistics Agency are clearly for military purposes, as stated in the open call for participants, so that the funds will contribute to future research and development in the field of defense. He pointed out that researchers applying for this fund intentionally skipped I pointed out this part.

He then speculated on the process that justified such researchers working on military research and pointed out the underlying deception. It is necessary to reemphasize that freedom of research is not to research freely, but to ensure the independence, autonomy, and openness of research so as not to invite the intervention

of power from the outside. He also emphasized that self-discipline, collective discussion and sharing of ideas are essential in research.

Finally he explained that academic freedom granted to universities is based on implicit contracts with citizens, and that it is the social responsibility of scientists to take pride in inheriting the role of cultural accumulation and development in universities.

(KOTAKI Toyomi, Secretary General of Ibaraki Branch)

Special issue:

Discourse by the Secretary-General of the Japan Scientists' Association

“We strongly protest the government's intervention in the Science Council of Japan, which violates academic freedom.”

Prime Minister Suga refused to appoint six of the next member candidates (105) recommended after the selection committee of the Science Council of Japan (hereinafter simply abbreviated as SCJ) without giving any reason. Sec. 7 of The Act of the Science Council of Japan (hereinafter we call it SCJ-Act) states that "The Science Council of Japan should be organized with 210 members of the Science Council of Japan (hereinafter referred to as "members"). We protest against such an outrage, knowing that it is a violation of the law that does not meet the above requirements.

There is no room for politicians to judge

Sec.7-Subsec.2 of the SCJ-Act says Law "Article 7.2: Members should be appointed by the Prime Minister based on the recommendation under Sec.17". And Sec.17 of SCJ-Act says that "According to the Rules, SCJ should select the candidates for member of SCJ among scientists with research results and achievements, and recommend to the Prime Minister pursuant to the provisions of the Cabinet Office Ordinance." As the above statement, SCJ conducted evaluation of excellent research and achievements and therefore there is no room for non-expert politicians to intervene and judge.

Exercising the Prime Minister's supervisory authority is an illegal measure

However, Prime Minister Suga responded to the press conference (JNN, N-STA, October 2), saying, "This is the result of taking appropriate measures based on the law." At a press conference, Chief Cabinet Secretary Kato said, "It is legally possible to exercise a certain level of supervisory Powers through the personnel affairs of members, and it is legally under the jurisdiction, etc This does not immediately lead to an infringement of Academic Freedom " (The Chief Cabinet Secretary's Press Conference on October 1). Not only did he say, "A series of system revisions have been made so that the member of SCJ promote activities from a comprehensive and bird's-eye view and from a broad perspective that is not limited to the achievements of specialized fields. Based on this ... The Prime Minister with the Powers to appoint and to dismiss has appointed the members based on the Act. " (The Chief Cabinet Secretary's Press Conference on October 2).

However, Sec. 26 says, "The Prime Minister may retire a member if he / she has an inappropriate act as a member, based on the request of the Science Council of Japan." The Powers to appoint and to dismiss belong to SCJ, and if inappropriate, The Prime Minister can remand the recommendation to SCJ with a reason. Exercising "supervisory authority" is illegal. This illegal measure should be withdrawn immediately.

Former Government View - Government Does Not Interfere or Slander

"The former government's successive system reforms" said mean that the Government has not taken up the reform outline by SCJ-itself (October 1982) and has continued to extort for reforms since it forced the revision of the Act from the public election system to the recommendation system for the members of SCJ.

At this time, SCJ issued, warning that survival of SCJ would be threatened, that "it threatens the reason for the existence of the SCJ, and therefore SCJ has to decide that it raises serious doubts about the purpose and performance of duties." ("About Bill to partially revise the SCJ Law" 89th SCJ General Assembly Statement, 1983.5.9)

The deliberation in the Diet at that time pointed out that the former government's reform would have the potential to violate the SCJ's independence. On the other hand, the former government repeated "Regarding the interpretation of this law, the prime minister would make a formal appointment. This point is sufficient for the examination of the bill by the Cabinet Legislation Bureau." (Counselor, Prime

Minister's Office, Takaoka Kanji, May 12, 1983, Committee of Education, House of Councilors). In addition, "The appointing action of the members by the Prime Minister is only formal, and when appointing members, we fully respect the results of voluntary elections by SCJ, and accept the recommended members as they are." "We will not refuse those who have been recommended by SCJ, and we will appoint only in the exact form, Therefore, the policy that the Prime Minister responded to will never change, and the government will never interfere or slander." (Minister of State Niwa Hyosuke, 1983.11.24, Committee of Education, House of Councilors) We appeal that it is never permissible for the Suga administration to have changed the former government's view with the interpretation by using the concealment method inherited from the Abe government.

Rejection of appointment that jeopardizes the survival of SCJ

– We call for the withdrawal of refusal of appointing six scientists.

Sec. 2 of SCJ-Act Law states that "the Science Council of Japan, as a representative institution for scientists inside and outside Japan, aims to improve and develop science and to reflect and permeate science in administration, industry and people's lives." For the main points of Sec. 2, of SCJ-Act can recommend to the government to promote science, develop technology, utilize research results, train researchers, reflect science in the administration, and permeate science in industry and people's lives. Sec. 4 also states that the government consults SCJ on the allocation of budgets for scientific research, including subsidies for scientific research and examinations.

If the government power is exercised over the appointment of SCJ members with such authority and at the discretion of the Prime Minister, the status, independence and authority of SCJ will be lost.

SCJ no longer has the character of an independent academic institution that makes recommendations to the government. We protest that the government is intervening not only in the personnel affairs of bureaucrats and the head of national research institutes, but also in the personnel of SCJ, and is trying to jeopardize the SCJ's survival.

Barbarism that impedes academic development

The reason why six scientists were not appointed has not been disclosed. This is also a bad practice that does not fulfill accountability during the Abe administration.

The comment, "From a comprehensive and bird's-eye view, from a broad perspective that is not bound by specialized fields," was an expression of expectations to be reformed into SCJ that does not criticize government policy or military research (Note). The government and policy criticisms should have disappeared if the public election system was changed to the recommendation system, but even after that, the members who opposed the security legislation did not disappear while the Defense Equipment Agency made a statement about the Militaristic National Security Technology Research that was a very childish intervention. Despite the recommendation system, and despite the change to the "direct recommendation / selection system for current members" (co-optation), policy criticism and bitter proposals to the government have not stopped. Above all, it is a proof that scholarship has a critical character. Avoiding this will only hinder the development of scholarship.

Academic freedom is infringed

If the reason why six scientists were not appointed was policy criticism (mostly, the opposition to the security-related law 'war law', the State Secrecy Law, Conspiracy Crimes Act, the construction of the U.S. Air Station HENOKO, etc.), it is clear that as a result of such opposition, the government's decision to give an opinion to scientists will violate the academic freedom guaranteed by Article 23 of the Constitution of Japan, and will impair academic independence and autonomy.

If the government eliminates scientists whom it does not like, academism returns to the terrible era of prewar fascism. In addition, there are many cases in which scientists who did not like the government of the time played a major role in the advancement of science. A policy with narrowing the field of vision that strives to create innovation required by the business world cannot prevent a decline in research capabilities and may lead to the collapse of the academic research system.

The problem of refusal to appoint six scientists is not limited to the problem of SCJ whose recommendation was refused. It is also the problem of the academic societies sending members to SCJ, and eventually invites personnel interventions in universities and research institutes. It can also be a bridge head of the university.

And the above-mentioned crisis of scholars and researchers is likely to jeopardize Japan's future. We demand that government intervention should be withdrawn immediately and hope that SCJ will be properly dealt with in accordance with the law.

(Note) At the time of the revision of SCJ, Nakayama Taro, the Secretary of the

Management and Coordination Agency, had complained about the government's criticism of SCJ before he took office ("Science Strategy in the Age of Oil Removal-For Tomorrow's Japan" 1980).

October 2, 2020

IHARA Satoshi, Secretary General of the Japan Scientists' Association