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(Photo: by Hajime Ono, May 22, 2021, in Oze National Park)

«CONTENT»

Activities

Researches (Extended Abstract)

TATENO Jun, *10 Years after Fukushima: Unforeseeable Disaster Restoration,
Anxiety about Restarting NPPs*

Events and Statements

What's New

About Us

The 2.11 rally against “National Foundation Day”

Held online under a state of emergency

Under the state of emergency (under COVID-19), the 2.11 rally against “National Foundation Day” in 2021 was held remotely.

In the first lecture, “Re-questioning the Colonies,” KIBATA Yoichi (Professor Emeritus, the University of Tokyo) pointed out that “comfort women¹ and forced laborer² are no longer problems limited to Japan and Korea but worldwide ones,” listing examples of revision of the Australian national anthem from “We are young and free” to “We are one and free,” the Black Lives Matter movement of the US, and responses to video advertisement of Nike accusing racial discrimination in Japan. Then, KIBATA stated that the world disparity (vaccine divide) in the COVID-19 epidemic is rooted in colonial rule even after the imperialist world system and colonial rule that spread in the 19th and 20th centuries moved to dismantling after the War. He said that the colonial rule did not disappear easily, and that the political (sovereignty), economic, and cultural overruns from the former colonial power remained as “unfinished decolonization.” KIBATA said that the parties should deal with issues among them in good faith, paying attention to the consciousness of those who dominate and who are dominated and its asymmetry, and gap in recognition of history. He pointed out that the SUGA administration, which does not learn from history in this regard, is to be rigorously denounced.

In the second lecture, KOMORI Yoichi (Professor Emeritus, the University of Tokyo) recalled his young days when he went to school voluntarily on National Foundation Day³, and touched on the unforgivable disdain for women committed by the person who said “*Kami no Kuni* (the country of God),” and stated that intervention by the SUGA administration in the academic field soon after its inauguration made him recall the case where Professor KUME Kunitake’s “*Shito Kigen Ron* (Theory of origin of Shinto)” was blamed by the state and he had to resign the post of professor at the University of Tokyo before the World War II, then started his lecture under the title “Detrimental Revision of Constitution and Appointment Refusal by SUGA Administration.” KOMORI argued that this

¹ comfort women; a euphemism for mostly Asian women who were forced to provide sex for Japanese troops before and during World War II

² forced labor; mostly Asian laborers who were recruited before and during World War II to work for Japanese companies

³ For several years since its enactment of National Foundation Day as a national holiday on February the 11th, those who opposed to it used to ignore it as a holiday. The National Foundation Day was regarded by them as a revival of the national holiday during the era of imperialism that helped promote the imperial cult based on Shintoism.

personnel intervention violates the academic freedom stipulated in the Constitution, and that academics delivered their manifestations of intention to oppose the political intervention, as a total of 1266 academic societies and organizations have called for the withdrawal of the refusal of appointment in a short period of time. He looked back on the background of the problem as follows. Various movements against the ABE administration's constitutional reform merged to form the "total movement" in 2014, and the "Scholars' Association Against Security Legislation" was established to protect students such as Shields who enlivened the movement. From the time it was formed, the administration began to be hostile to the Science Council of Japan (SCJ), and as the military-academia collaboration movement toward military research intensified, the Committee on National Security and Scientific Research was set up in the SCJ, and the "Statement on Research for Military Security" (2017) was issued. The latest refusal to appoint was because six people, including OZAWA Ryuichi, criticized and disagreed with the security-related laws (laws of war) from 2014 to 2015, so the SUGA administration has expanded their power by utilizing the authority over personnel issues. It was clear that it was a "shoot" by applying such means. KOMORI called for a movement against the personnel dictatorship of the SUGA administration, which succeeded the ABE administration, and for the realization of a change of government.

After the break, we exchanged movements through relay talks on "Nuclear Accident Compensation Proceedings 2; High Court Decisions and Future," "Effectuation of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and Issues in Japan," and "Current Situation of Korean Schools under COVID-19." Finally, we adopted a rally appeal "Create a society in which the idea of the Constitution lives while envisaging peace in Asia and the world beyond a sincere recognition of history" and broke up.

(MATSUI Yasutoshi, individual member of the Tokyo branch)

Activities (2) JJS Vol.56, No.5 May (2021), p.54 (278)

Report of the 1st meeting of the Labor Research Workshop

The "Study Group on Economy, Companies, Labor and Wages of Workers and Researchers" (abbreviated as Labor Research Workshop), which was formed at the commemorative symposium in October 2020, held the first study meeting on January 30 in 2021 at the venue and online.

This time, a special report "The birth of the new US Biden administration and the sharp drop in

the approval rating of the SUGA administration – Does Prime Minister SUGA perform the second dance of President Trump?” (HAGIWARA Shinjiro, Professor Emeritus of Yokohama National University), and 3 reports on the current situation in Japan, “Made stock price” (KATSUTANI Yasutomo, Meiji Univ. Graduate School), “Organization / union formation under the corona crisis → fulfillment of demand” (YASHIRO Makoto, Shinjuku Labor Confederation), “Cooperation for Breakthrough of Corona crisis” (UEMATSU Takayuki, Public-Private Joint Executive Committee, Tokyo Federation of National Service Employees) was held.

HAGIWARA’s special report is as follows: (1) the Trump administration, which enforced the politics of “America first principle” of white supremacy, faced a serious division of society like during the Civil War. (2) Prioritizing economic activities over corona measures for the victory of the presidential election led to Trump’s defeat. (3) The victorious Biden Democratic Party administration immediately promoted corona measures, corrected economic disparities, enhanced environmental policies, normalized immigration policies, and emphasized allies. It has changed the flow of politics significantly, but has a tough road ahead. (4) That is because Trump himself did not admit the defeat of this presidential election claiming that the election was stolen by “injustice”, and right wing, radicals, Trump supporters, and even many Republicans, still accept and support his remarks. (5) The SUGA administration prioritizes economic growth and economic resumption over corona measures. It is similar to the Trump administration. HAGIWARA says, in Japan, it was urgently required to develop the joint struggle between the citizens and the opposition, which had advanced in the security legislation prevention movement, to the establishment of a coalition government.

In the following three reports and in the question-answer session, they presented many workers who lost their jobs due to self-restraint requests, declarations of emergencies, etc. under the progress of the corona crisis, the plight of self-employed workers and union activities struggling in them. (YONEDA Mitsugu, Tokyo Branch)

Activities (3) JJS Vol.56, No.5 May (2021), p.54 (278)

<i>Page of JAS National Committees</i>
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<i>Work on 23rd Sogaku (CSSC) and JJS special issues under COVID-19. JSA Scientist Rights Issues Committee</i>
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In 2020, all daily activities were severely restricted due to the spread of the new COVID-19
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infection. The Scientist's Rights Issues Committee was no exception, and was forced to cancel the annual committee of members and advisors. Upon receiving the decision that the 23rd Comprehensive Scientific Study Convention (CSSC) of the JSA will be held online, the committee established the G4 subcommittee "Now, reconsider the rights, status, and ethics of researchers (Part.2)" in accordance with last year's agreement. Following the 22nd CSSC, the content consists of 6 reports, including UNESCO's "Recommendation on Science and Scientific Researchers" and research misconduct issues, as well as reports on the publication of intellectual property rights and achievements related to the recommendations. We had 17 participants. With the support of the executive committee and others, we were able to operate smoothly.

In addition, the editorial board of the "Journal of Japanese Scientists (JJS)" has requested the planning of a special issue on the rights, status, and ethics of researchers, and we will respond based on the reports and discussions in the 22nd and 23rd CSSC. The results were published in the May 2021 issue of JJS.

In 2021, due to the influence of the new coronavirus infection, it is inevitable that there will be considerable restrictions on social life in general. The committee also wants to enhance its activities by holding online committees, setting short-term and medium-term activity goals, and diversifying the composition of committees for the sustainable development of the committee. We also expect the active advice and participation of the members. At the same time, as an urgent issue, the government's refusal to appoint six members of the Science Council of Japan (SCJ) aims not only to infringe on the freedom of academic research, but also to change the academic system to promote military research. As a committee whose task is to establish the rights, status, and ethics of the university, we will strengthen our activities by seeking the withdrawal of the refusal of appointment together with the Academic System Department and the Executive Committee of JSA.

(NIU Kiyosato, Scientist Rights Issues Committee Secretariat)

Activities (4) JJS Vol.56, No.5 May (2021), p.55 (279)

The Regular Study Group of JSA Kanagawa Branch

"History and Current Status of the Science Council of Japan"

On the afternoon of December 15, 2020, the workshop "History and current status of the Science Council of Japan (SCJ)" was held by the Regular Study Group of JSA Kanagawa Branch at the

Kanagawa Research Institute Meeting Room, and WATANABE Yoshiro (Professor Emeritus of the University of Tokyo) gave a lecture on “History and Current Situation of the Science Council of Japan (SCJ)”. We deepened our awareness of the history and current activities of the SCJ. The outline of the lecture is as follows.

The SCJ have had four roles. The first has been the policy proposals to the government, but since 2000, there have been only three consultations from the government. The second international activity has been the activities in the International Science Council, the G Science Council, and international academic organizations in each fields. The third has been the construction of a network between scientists, which has been constructed in 7 districts from Hokkaido to Kyushu and Okinawa, and the activities of the Young Academy have also started. The fourth is public awareness about the role of science, which issues statements as academic conferences and recommendations of field-specific committees, and holds public symposiums and academic forums.

The SCJ, which was established in 1949, played a role of policy proposal to the government, such as the statement of the Three Principles of Nuclear Energy announced in 1954, and that was included in the Atomic Energy Basic Act. When the Council for Science and Technology was established in 1959, the government began to ask the Council to play the political advisory role. The revisioned provision of the Act on SCJ of 1983 and 2004 changed the election method, and in November 2018, the Cabinet Office of the SCJ issued the internal document stating that “the Prime Minister is not obliged to appoint as it be recommended, and in October 2020, the appointment of six member candidates was refused based on this document.

The 25th term of the SCJ, which began on October 1, 2020, currently has 204 members, which violate the Act on Science Council of Japan Section 7, which states that “it should be organized with 210 members of the SCJ.” Prime Minister SUGA, who has the power to appoint, has a legal obligation to fill the six vacancies and has to eliminate this illegal situation.

(GOTO Masatoshi, Kanagawa branch)

Activities (5) JJS Vol.56, No.5 May (2021), p.55 (279)

Report on the winter seminar sponsored by the Gunma branch

The 2020 Gunma Branch Winter Seminar was held on January 28, 2021 (Thursday) through “Zoom” system with the theme, “Current Situation and Issues of Foreign Workers in Gunma

Prefecture Area”. As a lecturer, we invited MAKOVEC Kawashima Anita from Slovenia, who has completed the Graduate School of Social Informatics at Gunma University and has worked at Gunma Bank. This seminar was held for about 2 hours, with free participation and entry and exit.

Specifically, in the first half, MAKOVEC gave a lecture on “working experience in Gunma prefecture” and a question and answer session. At that time, she talked about her work experience in Gunma prefecture. She mentioned that foreign workers may struggle due to cultural differences (overtime, vacations, drinking parties, etc.), and that the possibilities obtained by working in Japan differ depending on nationality. In particular, she said, she was impressed by the fact that Japanese people were kind and friendly, and that by working for a Japanese company they are like mutual aid to their working, they gained the necessary experience in doing business and were able to grow as a person.

Then, in the latter half, discussions were held on the problems of the “foreign technical intern training system and specific skill system”. The maximum number of participants was 27, and not only researchers in various fields, but also lawyers, prefectural assembly members, Jomo Shimbun reporters, and students participated, and the discussion was heated. We discussed that the reality is that the technical intern training system is not the original purpose of “international cooperation” or “international contribution”, but “a system to supplement the labor shortage”, and that the specific skill system may lead to “de facto immigration policy”. Etc. were pointed out and discussed. We recognized that this problem is a major issue for Japan in the future toward a society with a declining birthrate, an aging population, and a declining population. This seminar was held as part of activities related to joint research supported by the JSA, and the Gunma Branch will continue to pursue this theme.

(FUJII Masaki, Gunma University)

Activities (6) JJS Vol.56, No.6 June (2021), p.54 (334)
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Online Meeting of Fukuoka Study Group for Nuclear Issues

At the meeting of Fukuoka Study Group for Nuclear Issues held on March 20, 2021, the speaker MORINAGA Toru first provided a talk on “Danger of treated wastewater from Fukushima nuclear power plant (NPP) released into the ocean.” The central issue was to clarify the health impacts of tritium containing treated water and the problems of releasing it into the ocean.

The health hazards of tritium have been studied since the 1970s, and many studies have shown that, when tritium is taken into the body as water, it is released immediately, but when it is incorporated into DNA via organic matters, the excretion rate becomes low and it continues to accumulate in the body.

Also, a study in Canada has shown that the distance from the NPPs is inversely proportional to the concentration of tritium in plants and food. In addition, it shows statistically significant results that the prevalence of leukemia within 5 km of the NPPs is higher than the prevalence beyond that (individual cases from Germany, the United Kingdom, Switzerland and France are combined). According to studies in France and the United Kingdom the risk of developing leukemia has been shown to increase as a reprocessing plant get closer. At the Rokkasho plant in Aomori Prefecture the number of leukemia deaths has been on the rise after the large scale release of tritium began in 2007. Also leukemia deaths in Genkai town which hosts the Genkai nuclear power plant, the number of leukemia death is said to have increased statistically significantly after the operation of the NPP.

The tritium concentration will decrease to 3.4% upon storage for 60 years. It was pointed out that if the tank was installed just outside the boundary of the site, the shortage of space could be alleviated, and it was concluded that measures should be taken so that the problematic release into the ocean could be avoided.

In the remaining time, OKAMOTO Ryoji introduced information on various discussions about the NPPs at the turning point of the 10th year of the nuclear accident.
(MIYOSHI Eisaku, Fukuoka Branch)

Activities (7) JJS Vol.56, No.6 June (2021), p.54 (334)
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Tokyo Branch Study Session & Activity Exchange Meeting

The above meeting was held online on March 27, 2021. The purpose was to listen to experts in order to understand the actual conditions of education and labor that are changing in the COVID-19 crisis and to share troubles and lessons learned from activities.

At the study session, SATO Takuya (Chuo University) first talked under the title of “Online classes at the Universities” and recommended face-to-face lessons in the classroom or its hybrid forms with remote lessons focusing on the limitations of online education. He proposed return to a “university that can be attended” by introducing ways for realizing it.

The next speaker was KUDO Yoshihiro (Tokyo Teachers' Union). He talked about "School Education under the Coronavirus Crisis" and pointed out problems of study delays due to school closure, educational disparity between families, intensified labor ignoring opinions, and personality formation under the current education policy, conflict between personality formation and the current educational policy. He insisted that the significance of actual experience and understanding, and the recognition and trust of others at school are important for the formation of the children's personality.

MORI Harumi (National Confederation of Trade Unions, Tokyo, General) introduced "changes in the workplace due to the coronavirus crisis" generated the structural centralization of profits toward capital such as increase in individual employment contracts, revisions of work rules without labor-management agreements, continued low wages and evasion of mass bargaining by holding companies, and labor compensations for medical workers under COVID-19 crisis. He then proposed establishment of employment responsibility for work styles that do not depend on employment, a minimum wage of 1,500 yen nationwide, and strengthening of industry-wide organizations.

Among topics in the question and answer session are: exchanges between students, non-regular employment, digitization, unorganized worker problems, measures for educational continuity from primary through middle levels.

At the activity exchange meeting, the increased difficulty of graduate students, the difficulty of experimental research under the COVID-19 crisis, the activities of female members, the problem of dismissal of non-regular teachers under COVID-19, the safety myth of small classrooms, and examples of online use in union movements were discussed. We had very meaningful time.

(SAKUMA Hidetoshi, Tokyo Branch)

Activities (8) JJS Vol.56, No.6 June (2021), p.55 (335)
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Miyazaki Branch on-line meeting held

Thinking about "security" from Kyushu and Okinawa's points of views

The Miyazaki Branch of the Japan Scientists' Association (JSA) held their second regular meeting online on February 11, 2021. The conference was held in place of the "Gathering for Constitution and Peace at Miyazaki Shimin Plaza" which had been canceled due to the pandemic. The lecturer was KAMEYAMA Norikazu (Assistant Professor, Ryukyu University, Forest Conservation Studies), whose lecture title was "Thinking about security from Kyushu and Okinawa's points of

views: Creating societies where we can truly protect the life and way of living”. There were about 40 participants, and after the lecture, opinions were actively exchanged beyond the scheduled time.

The lecturer reviewed Japan’s countermeasures against the COVID-19, heavy rains, volcanoes, and earthquake disasters. The lecturer argued that Japan has neglected their efforts to protect lives and the livelihood of the citizens, by making excuse of too much cost to fight against disasters and infectious diseases. On the mainland, the joint use of the Self-Defense Forces (SDF) bases by the US military has been progressing, on the other hand, in Okinawa, the strengthening of new US military bases and the joint use of the SDF have been being promoted at enormous cost. However, it is unlikely that these base armoring will protect our lives from invasions by other countries such as China. If there is an invasion, it will be triggered by US-China war due to Taiwan emergency, but The Battle of Okinawa proves that the armoring will never protect the citizens, instead, it may serve as a shield for the US-China war. However, in various parts of Kyushu and Okinawa, the actions against the armoring of these bases have significantly spread. In particular, the tenacious struggle of the so-called “All Okinawa” will continue to be of great significance.

At the end of the lecture, the issue of Urasoe new military port construction, the central issue at the time of the Urasoe mayoral election in February 2021, and behind-the-scene stories of the mayoral election were reported. The lecturer pointed out that this election was an important action step.

(KINOSHITA Osamu, Miyazaki Branch)

Activities (9) JJS Vol.56, No.6 June (2021), p.55 (335)
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Recent activities of the National and Public Research Institute Committee: 23 General Subcommittee Report

A subcommittee discussion session entitled “How national and public research institutes, health centers, and hospitals should be in order to overcome the corona disaster?” was held at the 23rd Comprehensive Scientific Study Convention (CSSC) of the JSA in December 2020. This committee was established as a part of the activities of the National and Public Research Institute Committee. The purpose of setting up this subcommittee was to clarify the current situation in which national research institutes, public hospitals, and public health centers have been victimized under “administrative reform”, so they cannot fulfill expected roles in the corona disaster. Recognizing that administrative organizations have serious problems in responding to pandemics, this subcommittee

decided to listen not only to the problems of research institutes but also to public hospitals, public health centers, of which four representatives gave their talks.

First, DAIMON Shinpei (Japan Federation of National Service Employees) introduced various kinds of operations and researches of the National Institute of Infectious Diseases under the title of “Current Situation and Issues of the National Institute of Infectious Diseases” and explained how poor their financial situation is. Second, YOKOYAMA Toshiro (Liaison group for the enhancement of metropolitan hospitals) gave a talk entitled “Regional Institutions and Hospitals Legalization: Current Situation and Future Challenges”, explaining the semi-privatization of public research institutes and public hospitals.

Finally, a report by TAKAHASHI Kishiko (Deputy Secretary General of the Iwate Prefecture Social Security Promotion Council) “promoting and strengthening the functions of health centers and public health, based on Article 25 of the Constitution of Japan” and a report by ADACHI Tomonori (Tokyo Research Institute of Autonomy Problems) entitled “Financial Problems: hoping to finance from National Treasury” introduced various roles of health centers, changes of laws about health centers, annexing and separating of centers, as well as obliged reduction of number of employees. The speeches detailed financial reasons behind the problems.

These reports revealed that the adverse effects of the government’s consistent “administrative reform” and “administrative efficiency” policies have reached a level that threatens the lives of citizens. Twenty-one subcommittee participants reconfirmed that it is necessary to widely publicize the actual situation to the public.

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

Activities (10) JJS Vol.56, No.7 July (2021), p.61 (341)

Report of the JSA Hokuriku Area Joint Symposium

The above symposium was online on April 18th. The theme was “Living in the community - the significance of local autonomy and the direction of regional revitalization.” As a keynote speech, Professor OKADA Tomohiro (Kyoto Tachibana University, Professor Emeritus of Kyoto University) gave a lecture on “Living in the Community: Creating a Community that Utilizes the Constitution in Living”.

At present, new coronavirus infections and many natural disasters occur frequently, and there

are serious issues including respect for residents' life and human rights and conservation of the natural environment on a global scale. Economic globalization is deepening the contradiction between multinational corporations and local residents. It was pointed out that it is important for local economic agents, small and medium-sized enterprises, etc., and local governments to strengthen and disseminate information as the direction of problem solving. Concrete national cases of them were introduced. Okada's lecture was convincing and gave lessons to the participants.

The themes of the general lecture were privatization of public works, community medicine, radioactive waste management, and protection of the natural environment. NAOE Shun-Ichi of the Ishikawa branch reported on the "Problems of Kanazawa City Gas and Power Generation Business Transfer Privatization." Suddenly, a "public comment" survey was conducted in Kanazawa City, and a budget proposal for privatization preparation was passed by the prefectural assembly. The media advertised that "gas/electricity set discounts." The opposition movement argued that "against the use of the media, understanding the essence is an issue."

TERANISHI Hidetoyo of the Toyama branch reported on "Problems of the epidemic of new coronavirus infection and community medical care concept". Coronavirus infections have been rampant since 2019, but Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare of Japan has not played a sufficient role. He pointed out that there was a problem with the bed-reduction plan in the community medical concept-related law for 2025, when the baby boomer generation will be over 75 years old, and that it was important to guarantee democracy and residents' autonomy in order to develop community medical care.

ONO Hajime of the Fukui branch reported that "Radioactive waste management policy and local autonomy, thinking in relation to the actual situation of the regions (Hokkaido, Wakasa Bay)". Taking Suttso-cho, Hokkaido as an example, he examined the problem of radioactive waste as a "negative heritage" of nuclear energy development and its solution. He said it was important to respect local autonomy, and respect for the voluntary will of local governments in the West (the right to leave) was a clue to the solution.

Regarding nature maintenance, MASUDA Junzo, YOKOHATA Yasushi, and SAWADA Kenta of the Toyama branch made a report entitled "the impact of Toyama Prefecture's Arimine-forest road development plan on the endangered Hakuba salamander". In the Arimine area of Toyama prefecture, the naturalness is high and precious wild animals and plants such as Hakuba salamander inhabit. However, the forest road maintenance project is being promoted by the "Toyama Prefecture Green Forest Creation and Maintenance Plan". As an adverse effect, there is concern about the endangered IB of the Ministry of the Environment Red List in Japan. As an example for considering the

relationship between natural environment conservation and local administration, initiatives such as the “NPO Tateyama Nature Conservation Network” were introduced.
(TERANISHI Hidetoyo, Toyama Kyoritsu Hospital)

Activities (11) JJS Vol.56, No.7 July (2021), p.62 (342)

Spring Meeting of Article 9 Society’s 16th Anniversary: Lectures on “Is the Constitutional Amendment Over? Abe’s Constitutional amendment in Post-Abe Era”

Spring Meeting of Article 9 Society’s 16th Anniversary was held online on April 10, 2021. Concerning about its theme “ABE’s constitutional amendment without ABE,” related two lectures on the ability to attack enemy bases and the Japan-US unification, and on the appointment refusal of the Science Council of Japan (SCJ) were given.

According to HANDA Shigeru (journalist), the Cabinet decision at the end of 2020 to renovate the escort ships into Aegis Ashore system-mounted type and to equip the long-range enemy base attack system of “Type 12 surface-to-ship guided missile” is a political decision based on the supply of US-weapons. It leads to enormous increasing of “defense costs” but is questionable in the viewpoint of military effects. Further, he pointed out the danger of joint training plan which the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF) will execute in the South China Sea in cooperation with the USA, France, and Australia to control China under the slogan of “Free and Open Indo-Pacific Ocean.” As a countermeasure, China has launched anti-ship ballistic missiles and justified its insistence that the fact that the US had not denied an assumption China is “a supposed peculiar target” increased military tension between the USA and China and that the US military commander’s Senate testimony “the threat to Taiwan will be clear in the next six years” reinforced its worry. It would not be excluded that the US-China military clash triggers a warfare including Okinawa and whole of Japan. So, he concluded that we should demand that the Japanese administration under Premier SUGA will refrain from reinforcing US-Japan military unification, that the USA will stop using military forces, and that China will have “awareness as a regional stakeholder”.

After a systematic description about fundamental characteristics of the SCJ and about the refusal process of appointment, KOMORITA Akio (former the first director of the SCJ) told about the correlation between this problem and academic freedom. “Academic researches rely on scientists’ moral and its supporting systems independently.” “On the side of civil societies, academic freedom is

indispensable to better self-understanding and rational judgements. We have experienced that if academic researches once weaken critical spirit, it is lost also in civil society. In such a situation, the evidences and logics are neglected, the societies are more deeply divided, and the democracy itself is threatened.” In this sense, he pointed out that the problem of academic freedom is also a problem for society as a whole.

(MATSUI Yasutoshi, individual member of JSA Tokyo branch)

Activities (12) JJS Vol.56, No.7 July (2021), p.62 (342)

Tokyo Branch's Series Lectures on COVID-19: The First Meeting was Held

At the very moment when serious infection spread, i.e. the fourth wave of COVID-19, was newly progressing mainly in Osaka and Tokyo, the JSA Tokyo branch held the first series of lectures on the COVID-19 problem on April 25, 2021 in online format. The lecturer YAMADA Hideki (Vice Director of Tachikawa Mutual Hospital and Vice Chairman of Japan Federation of Democratic Medical Institutions) reported about the theme “Looking back on the year of COVID-19 from the medical forefronts”. More than 50 persons participated.

In his report, (1) Tachikawa Mutual Hospital, which has 287 beds and became a medical institution cooperating with the new influenza medical treatment in 2009, “first examines” patients with doctors, nurses, and staff working together to deal with COVID-19. Next, the hospital looks after local residents and those who are in trouble. The principle of their medical activities to protect the human rights was introduced with concrete and detailed data. (2) Clinical experiences of COVID-19, analytic factors of infection risk (risk of domestic infection is 20 %, infection risk among close contacts is 5 %, but it increases to 7% in case of dining together, etc.), and characteristics of the fourth wave (rapid spread, high infection rate of children, aggravation among youngsters, etc.) were explained.

Also, (3) two sides of the reality of medical collapses that are proceeding in the condition of fragile medical system was introduced in detail: medical institutions are “too busy” because of the neoliberal structural reforms. Firstly, medical system is heavily burdened; (a) Collapse of emergency medical system (no capacity to accept fever patients, no places to transfer severe COVID-19 patients, etc.), (b) Restriction of normal medical care (increasing patients who must wait for emergency surgery and examination). Secondly, medical institutions are faced with management crisis because of infection expenditure; e.g. Tachikawa Mutual Hospital has had about 600 million yen deficit of

working capital in the first half of 2020 and borrowed an interest-free unsecured loan of 900 million yen urgently from the Welfare Medical Organization. Revenues of medical institutions in Japan as a whole decreased by 1.1 trillion yen and one-fifth of hospitals nationwide accepted emergency borrowing.

(4) COVID-19 reveals contradictions of contemporary Japan such as “economic disparity and poverty” and “divided labor market” immediately. His lecture suggested that we should make a fight against COVID-19 into a political turning point to protect human lives and welfare.

(YONEDA Mitsugu, Secretary General of the Tokyo branch)

Activities (13) JJS Vol.56, No.7 July (2021), p.63 (343)

Aichi Branch Academic Lecture “Novel Corona and Vaccine: Is collective immunization possible?”

The titled lecture was held on-line on April 24, 2021. The speaker was NAKAGAWA Takeo, a specialist in public health. He gave a 90-minute lecture on the novel coronavirus based on his article entitled “Thinking about COVID-19 Infectious Diseases” published on Aichi Branch News (No. 17 published on October 1, 2020). The lecture included 5 sections: 1. Current status of corona infection, 2. Response in Japan, 3. Coronavirus infection, 4. It was an easy-to-understand lecture consisting of the issues on vaccines and 5. Vaccines will end COVID-19.

What has impressed us especially is that under the current situation there is no effective silver bullet for the novel corona, so the first prevention method is just try not to be infected, However, autoimmunity is increasingly strengthened. In addition, the fourth wave, which is currently expanding, is characterized by the fact that the mutant strain (N501Y) is the mainstream, the infectivity and the aggravation rate is high, and that the young people including children also can be severely infected.

Japan has had so many problems such as slow action for initial response, poor maintenance of PCR inspection system, delay in stockpiling of infection control equipment, and inconsistent policies. Furthermore, public health facilities have been downscaled, causing unification and abolition of health centers (For example, Nagoya City has also combined all the ward health centers only to one located in the Nagoya City Hall Complex).

Corona viruses are classified into 5 types, and the novel coronavirus belongs to Type 2-b like SARS, but the former is different in that it is infectious before the onset, RNA virus is structurally variable, and the effect of the vaccination is considered 90% or more in the short term. However, it should be noted that this vaccine’s manufacturing method is different from that of conventional vaccine, so it is not clear yet whether this vaccine is safe or not in the long term and how long its

effective period will be. We were warned that we should not have an excessive expectation for the vaccine.

The lecture was completed by pointing out that “vaccine gap”, i.e. domestic vaccines cannot be developed or manufactured reveals a large difference in the perceptions of crisis management for protecting citizens.

(MATSUDA Masahisa, Aichi Branch)

Activities (14) JJS Vol.56, No.7 July (2021), p.63 (343)

***Tokyo Branch Women Members Liaison Committee Hazuki no Kai 2021 Spring Gathering
“Women Researchers and Engineers in the COVID-19 Crisis Part 2”***

On April 1, 2021, the spring gathering of the Tokyo Branch Women's Member Liaison Committee “Hazuki no Kai” was held online. Expecting to continue considering issues for women researcher/engineer subcommittee of the 23rd Comprehensive Scientific Study Convention (CSSC), we listened to talks on education, research, and everyday problems given by four speakers. There were 35 participants including non-JSA members.

K, a graduate student, talked about research difficulties such as inability to conduct in-person surveys, to collect data and materials, and financial difficulties due to less opportunities to interact with other graduate students and less space for study, and fewer part-time jobs. It was stated that it is necessary to support graduate students from various aspects including psychological and mental conditions.

MASHIMA Asako (Assistant Professor, Nihon University) reported that the university started to function more as a place for counseling and building relationship among students. Although there are advantages to online lessons, it is difficult for students and faculties to interact with each other due to the loss of talking opportunities, said she.

KINUKAWA Kiyoko (Chairman of the University Teachers' Union), a part-time lecturer at a Japanese language school, reported forced leaves and termination of hiring due to a decrease in the number of students at Japanese language schools. She also reported the demand by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology to teach in-person. The state of trade union negotiations and issues related to union activities were also reported.

ANEHA Aki (Professor, Komazawa University) talked about the current state of higher education in Sweden, where he studied. He reported problems of corona measures that are slower than in other countries, harmful effects of neoliberal reform, and the actual situation of gender equality.

The participants talked about the actual situation of female researchers who work from home while taking care of most of the housework and childcare, the difficulty of corona illness, and the importance of a place to share about student support. It was reconfirmed that problems such as high

tuition fees, precarious employment, and the burden of childcare and housework on women have become more serious due to the pandemic. We once again understood that these JSA activities are important in sharing the issues and considering how to overcome them.

(MINEO Naoko, Tokyo Branch)

<i>Researches (Extended Abstract)</i>
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10 Years after Fukushima: Unforeseeable Disaster Restoration, Anxiety about Restarting NPPs

TATENO Jun (JSA Tokyo Branch, Ex-Professor of Chuo University, Tokyo)

Inside the Fukushima-Daiichi nuclear power plant (NPP) where a severe accident with meltdown occurred in 2011, the work to remove the molten core (debris) has been delayed, and contaminated water continues to be generated. Around the NPP, decontamination work was done and many of the evacuated residents came back. However, there are still heavily polluted areas, and 30,000 residents have not yet returned.

In June 2020, the Nuclear Regulatory Authority (NRA) announced that a large amount of radioactive substances had adhered to the inside of the reactor at the accident site (for example, 70 PBq⁴ on the back of its shield plug above the Unit 2 containment vessel). This is an enormous amount equivalent to the total amount of cesium released into the environment during the accident. Why and how radioactive substances were attached is unknown. Despite the fact that the final solution of the accident is uncertain, and that the cause of the accident has not even been investigated, the NRA conducted a conformity assessment of the NPP-restarting plans and allowed the operation of 16 NPPs. Its review contains many drawbacks as described below. Therefore, I think this operational permission is not valid.⁵

(a) The NRA demands vents (intentional release of gas containing radioactive substances from the containment vessel) in case of a core meltdown accident. However, vents are likely to put residents at risk of serious exposure and should not be used as a countermeasure against severe accidents. (b)

⁴ 1 PBq = 10¹⁵ Bq

⁵ For details, see: Jun Tateno, “10years after Fukushima: Are Japanese nuclear power Plants safe?” in Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists 2021/6/28 ([10 years after Fukushima: Are Japanese nuclear power plants safe? - Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists \(thebulletin.org\)](https://thebulletin.org/10-years-after-fukushima-are-japanese-nuclear-power-plants-safe/))

In the Fukushima accident, the temperature of the pressure suppression chamber, i.e. a heat sink, rose, and as a result, the pressure in the containment vessel rose, leading to damage. The NRA's new regulation prescribes the installation of an "alternative circulation cooling system" to prevent it. This device is for taking out a part of the cooling water and for dissipating the heat to the outside. It is uncertain whether such an additional ad hoc equipment will ensure safety, because it is far from an essential improvement of boiling water reactors (BWRs) whose containment vessels are too small. (c) The NRA's new regulation requires a heavy use of mobile safety devices such as water injection vehicles, but mobile devices lack reliabilities. (d) Considering the difficulty of removing debris in the Fukushima accident, a core catcher that catches the molten core is indispensable. Nevertheless, the conformity assessment does not demand a core catcher. (e) The conformity assessment does not examine the evacuation plan of the residents at all. It means that, even if the evacuation of the surrounding residents is almost impossible, the restart of the NPP will be permitted.

In Japan, the occurrence of further large earthquakes is foretold. Under these circumstances, NPPs with the above-mentioned defects should not be operated. All NPPs should be shut down immediately and a decommission plan should be decided.

Events and Statements

[May 30/June 13, 2017]

- ▶ JSA 52nd General Conference (online)
- ▶ The Construction of Henoko-Base of US-Army has been Failed. Its Project should be Cancelled Immediately
- ▶ Protest Strictly against Governmental Intervention in SCJ, and Require Designation of Six Refused Candidates Again
- ▶ Require Japanese Government to Sign and Ratify Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons

[May 28, 2017]

- ▶ Require to Reject the Land Use Control Act (issued by JSA Executive Committee)

What's New

SCIENTISTS FORUM of World Conference Against A&H Bombs (August 1, 2021, online)

[scienceforum2021circular1b.pdf \(jsa.gr.jp\)](#) Application form is:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfpL8nN0eig95CfBKPQCooVNI73eHw_Rk5Rft_BFOX5fMgDag/viewform

About Us

“In order to harness and develop science for human beings, it is necessary for scientists especially to conscience their social responsibility, synthetically develop every field of science, and work the society to peacefully use the fruits. **The Japan Scientists' Association (JSA)** was established and has been acting for these purposes. Hoping independent and synthetic development of Japanese science consistently since its foundation in 1965, to carry out its social responsibility, the Association has been tackling several problems: peace and disarmament problem like as elimination of nuclear weapons, environmental conservation to defense human life and living, protection of university autonomy, and establishment of right and position of scientists.”

(From “Introduction of the Japan Scientists' Association”, [introduction - JSA](#))

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comprehensive academic journal, in which scientists and citizens share various subjects relating to contemporary human society and interests in nature ([Microsoft Word - Journal of Japanese Scientists 0.2 \(jsa.gr.jp\)](#)). You see all contents of back-numbers: [日本科学者会議 - The Japan Scientists' Association \(JSA\)](#). Every JSA member can submit manuscripts to the JJS editorial commission. The papers in English are published online on the JSA web page.

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