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Mt. Hakuba-Yari (left) and Mt. Shakushi (right) in winter

(Photo: by Hajime Ono, in Tsugaike-Highlands, Otari-village, Nagano Prefecture, December 2022)

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The Japan Scientists' Association, Graduate Students' Board in Tokyo Branch, "An interview with a senior researcher about the life course of a researcher"

Just as neoliberalism governs the people by working on the subject, the desire for "short-term results" and "mass production of papers" is irresistible, coming from the inside, not from the outside. In order to look ahead to a life course that is not the above, it is very helpful to hear how other people have lived alternative lives in a similar environment.

In a project entitled "An interview with a senior researcher about the life course of a researcher," hosted by the JSA Graduate Students' Board in Tokyo Branch and held on August 30, 2022 at the National Olympics Memorial Youth Center in Tokyo, OBI Harumi (Assistant Professor, Faculty of Economics, Chuo University) was invited as a lecturer to give a talk entitled "Graduate Student Life is no pleasure without pain!" -My life in graduate school and how I spent the early years of my academic career." OBI said that she became a master's student after the policy of prioritizing graduate school in the early 1990s, and felt that she lacked the "basic strength" for her own research compared to other professors who had become researchers before the policy. OBI said that she was not clear about what she wanted to clarify even after she entered the doctoral course. Although she managed to get her research published in an academic journal during her D1 year, her subsequent D2 to D5 years were a period of "groping in the dark" as her research came to a standstill.

In order to overcome such a deadlock, OBI has done about two things. The first is to learn the methodology of research and scientific cognition. Through study groups that reads classics of developmental psychology and economics, "it was important to learn what kind of intellectual work is necessary to properly understand complex research subjects," she says.

On the other hand, since it is not enough just to learn the methodology, she also suggested "continuing to tackle reality" as the second point. When she was in a hurry to proceed with her research, she reflected on the fact that she had fallen into the pattern of searching for answers by reading previous studies, which was fundamentally wrong. She believed that "the analytical framework for my research can only come from the reality of the subject of my research," and she earnestly repeated interviews and other surveys of the actual situation. By steadily accumulating research and gaining an analytical perspective, OBI said she was able to write many papers and present at conferences in the two years from D6 to D7.

OBI considers D2 to D5 "grope in the dark" to be the dead end of her research, but from a way

of life that steadily accumulates methods and investigations, we can see that she has a sincere attitude of patiently devoting herself to her research. I wonder if today's graduate students, including the author, will be able to carry out such a steady grope in the dark. For example, the various technologies required of a data scientist in recent years are surprisingly easy to extract, analyze, and summarize data. Such technology shines fascinatingly in the dark and arouses the desire to mass-produce papers in a short period of time. The report suggested the importance of steady research without yielding to such various temptations, even as the research environment worsens and becomes darker and darker.

(MORIYAMA Hikaru, Tokyo Branch)

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12th Hachioji Science Forum: Results of Upper House Elections and Challenges of Japanese Politics

On August 23, 2022, we held the above mentioned study session online. There were about 20 participants. This time also, amount of general public participants was more than that of JSA members.

The lecturer was the political scientist IGARASHI Hitoshi. He analyzed the background and factors that led to the ruling parties maintaining majority in the House of Councilors election, and discussed what is needed to move forward based on four pillars:

1. Upper House Election Results and Their Factors: The Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), which claims to have won, has reduced voter support to less than 20%, a proportional loss of one seat. The ruling parties are concerned with three multi-layered countercurrents (long-term countercurrents): Conservatism and right-drift of Japanese society; anxiety and frustration due to poverty and domination of the media net. Short-term Backflow in Ukraine: Impact of the invasion, theory of “utilization” of the Self-Defense Forces, etc. Short-term Backflow: Shooting of Former Prime Minister ABE Shinzo’s death, the former Unification Society problem cover-up) was put to good use. IGARASHI first emphasized the tactical failure and confusion of the opposition parties against them.

2. As a result, the relationship between the anti-social organization called the Unification Association and the LDP was exposed, leading to the unconstitutional state funeral issue and the former united. The public has great doubts about the collusive relationship between the association and the LDP executives.

3. A New Phase of Constitutional Destruction: From promotion to realization of the proposal for

constitutional revision, the Constitutional Commission of the House of Representatives is going out of control as the *Ishin*-Party and the *Kokumin*-Party pander to it. Taking advantage of aggression, it is headed in the direction of all-out war, with major military expansion, nuclear dependence, “counterattack capability” preemptive attack, and command and control functions. We will prevent this and create peace through diplomacy and an “active constitutional government.”

4. Future Issues and the Reconstruction of the Joint Struggle of Opposition Parties: The new capitalism is also stalled by the evils of neo-liberalism, widening inequality and poverty. We can no longer count on the LDP government. Let's present a hopeful vision by criticizing and pursuing poverty reduction measures and disparity correction. Let's demonstrate our grassroots power in the re-evaluation of the joint struggle of the opposition parties. IGARASHI summarized the dissolution and general election.

(ITO Setsu, Hachioji Science Forum, Tokyo Branch)

Activities (3) <i>JJS</i> Vol.57, No.11 November (2022), p.62 (664)
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Aichi Branch Academic Lecture: “How to Create Peace in East Asia?”

At the Aichi branch, we held an academic lecture on the above title on Sunday, August 28, 2022, from 16:00 to 17:30. The speaker was IIJIMA Shigeaki (Constitutional Studies, Peace Studies, Nagoya Gakuin University). It was held online, and 20 people participated.

In the lecture, first, the current situation and truth of the Taiwan Strait Crisis triggered by the visit of Speaker of the US House of Representatives Pelosi to Taiwan. It was said that the security legislation that made it possible for the Japanese government to dispatch the Self-Defense Forces (use of force) would never bring peace to Japan or Asia.

In turn, the Russian invasion of Ukraine re-examines the tragedy of war, especially that of non-combatants. Despite this, in Japan, in a way that goes against this, nuclear sharing (1) the rise of the nuclear sharing theory, (2) an increase of more than 5 trillion yen in defense spending, etc. It was pointed out that there were a number of proposals for spying, (3) moves to enact laws to prevent spying, and (4) statements that the Self-Defense Forces should be clearly stated in the constitution.

Then, the following actions were considered important for the powers that wanted to amend the constitution and become a country capable of waging war. By disseminating the principles of the United Nations Charter's “Non-Use of Armed Forces” and the “Pacifism” principle of the Constitution

of Japan, we have created a stronghold of peace in our hearts. Abandoning the idea of “peace through military force” (Peaceful diplomacy is important and the legislation related to the US-Japan Security Treaty should be abolished). The deployment and strengthening of the Self-Defense Forces in the *Nansei* Islands and Kyushu and the possession of the ability to attack enemy bases are part of Japan's defense. Rather, it means complicity in US military strategy.

Rather than increasing the defense budget by 5 trillion yen, the budget should be used for the many citizens who are struggling to make a living due to the corona crisis. A closer look at how defense spending is spent reveals a lot of wastage.), efforts toward the realization of a nuclear weapons ban treaty (3), building friendly relations with neighboring countries (4), and prohibition of constitutional amendment (5).

After the lecture, how do advocates of "peace by force" think about the dangers of using nuclear weapons in war? What is China's true intention in conducting military training in the Taiwan Strait? There was a question-and-answer session about such things.
(KONDO Mitsuyo, Aichi Branch)

Activities (4) <i>JJS</i> Vol.57, No.11 November (2022), p.63 (665)
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“Science Plaza” Lecture: “How to Respond to Global Warming, Pandemics, and the Crisis of Nuclear War - thinking about SDGs and the Future of the Earth and the Capitalism”

The Kagoshima Branch held the above meeting at Kagoshima University from 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, July 23 (also available online). A total of 38 people, including JSA-members and citizens, participated (including 27 remote participants). The lecturer was NISHIHARA Seiji (Kagoshima International University, Faculty of Economics). He has published his book “A Global Community that Transcends Ethnic Groups and Nation” just in May (Bunrikaku publisher). We intended to introduce the participants the introduction and the final chapter of his book simply and discuss the issues that he raised with them. We had called to being joined together as the last human beings (*Homo sapiens*), based on Russia's invasion of Ukraine and the threat of nuclear war (“War is the greatest destruction of the environment”), as an endangered species and through a way of thinking of global citizens and to explore the future of the earth, the human being and the capitalism together. In response to this call many people came from inside and outside to our lecture meeting.

The meeting began with the chairmanship of SAKAMOTO and an introduction of the speakers

by TANEMURA, our branch representative. After the lecture some questions were asked from the audience. There were more questions than we could finish within the time limit: In what sense is the novel coronavirus crisis different from the previous ones? What is the basis to say that wars and crises occur in 10-year cycles? How does the author analyze not only developed but also developing countries?

After the meeting ended, some participants remained in the hall and had discussions. In addition, the online participants sent their impressions, questions, and opinions directly to the lecturer by e-mail or telephone. Because we used Zoom, there was a wide variety of participants, from Amami Island in the south to Tokyo in the east. IMAI was in charge of the network, and the online system showed its power. The new executive department's first effort was for the time being “successful.” We would like to connect to a next meeting.

(NISHIHARA Seiji, Kagoshima Branch)

Activities (5) <i>JJS</i> Vol.57, No.11 November (2022), p.63 (665)
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Kyoto Branch, Reading meeting: Journal of Japanese Scientists (JJS), Vol. 57-7: General Education in Universities for People Living in Modern Society

It was held online from 15:30 to 17:45 on Monday, August 22nd. There were 6 participants. In this special issue, the general remarks of FUJITA Kimiko are important. But at our reading meeting the following three papers related to class practice at the universities were taken up for discussion.

SAKON Takuo introduced KIDO Eiichi's essay on the “Pursuit for Peace” class at Osaka University, which was established in the wake of the war of aggression against Iraq in 2003, based on the current situation of the invasion against Ukraine.

OKURA Hiroyuki introduced the paper by Hiroshi Yoshida that tried to make science students understood the “social system” necessary in the future as experts in natural sciences and technology in analyzing the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant accident from the perspective of corporate accounting. He commented that the view of corporate accounting and the insurance system can be used as a reference for victim relief, but considering the complexity and seriousness of radiation damage, it is necessary to consider in a wider variety of relationships. The paper of OKURA Shigeru and SAWA Yoshinari was introduced by SHIMIZU Tamiko as a consideration of classroom practice based on a philosophical and ethical approach, which was newly established to consider "what is

agriculture?" together with students of the Faculty of Agriculture.

In the discussion, it was told that teachers in specialized courses are attached to securing class hours related to their specialized fields than “Constitution” or “Peace”, although the compulsory credits for liberal arts courses were reduced from 36 to 24 due to the relaxation of the standards for the establishment of universities.

Participant HAYASHI Tetsusuke emphasized the following three points based on his many years of experience in liberal arts education. (1) The political indifference of young people pointed out in KIDO's paper is the focus of the problem. It is necessary to convey to these students, who tend to give up and distrust science, that it is essential to take a bird's-eye view of history through classes and grasp it in terms of social relevance. This will give you a perspective on what to do in the future. (2) We should reconsider how classes should be, break away from “teaching,” and thoroughly “ask what they think by posing questions.” (3) It is necessary to have a place for exchange and discussion among the teachers in charge.

(SHIMIZU Tamiko, Kyoto Branch)

Activities (6) <i>JJS</i> Vol.57, No.12 December (2022), p.47 (727)
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We aspire to put Osaka's education back into the hands of the residents! Examining 10 years of educational “reform” in Osaka Prefecture

This study group was planned and run by former teachers. On September 18, about 40 citizens gathered in Sakai City. The new Basic Law on Education was enacted in various places. It clamped down on the educational field and deprived teachers of autonomy more than imagined. Osaka is no exception. The Basic Ordinance on Education Administration seems to proclaim “guaranteeing the quality of education” nationwide. In accordance with the “Guidelines for School Evaluation in Compulsory Education Schools” formulated by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology in 2006, each school has established “school standards”, and whether the operation is commensurate with the “school standards” and whether the school functions as a place where it can contribute to the community is verified by the community, children, and parents, and disclosed as school evaluation and teacher evaluation. School management that incorporates the opinions of the community as “the will of the people” seems to be realized, but this makes children and schools suffocating. Education does not produce results overnight. However, with the aim of integrating

guidance and evaluation, it is necessary to quantify the degree of achievement of today's learning goals and the goals of reducing truancy and bullying by school, and to disclose and report whether they have been achieved.

This time, KUBO Kei, former principal of Kikawa-Minami Elementary School in Osaka City, and HAMAMOTO Nobuhiko of Kansei-Gakuin University gave lectures. This principal's small step was a question that the teachers could not say, and he said that he was deprived of the problem and the norm of putting doubts into words. Many children are unable to do so and have painful feelings inside.

HAMAMOTO pointed out the problems of neoliberal intervention in education in Osaka, namely the challenge test, the school choice system, and the consolidation and abolition of high schools. Sakai City also conducts its own “diagnostic test of learning.” In order to get a high score, we will take measures without classes and independent and deep learning. Education belongs to residents and beneficiaries, not for evaluation. It was clarified that teachers and children are exhausted, and that following the opinions of the central government who do not feel the actual situation of the community is not a sovereign people.

(KONDO Mariko, Kyoto Branch)

Activities (7) JJS Vol.57, No.12 December (2022), p.48 (728)

JSA Fukuoka Branch: 5th Dialogue between Citizens and Scientists “Thinking about Food Additives and Endocrine Disruptors”

The JSA Fukuoka branch has been holding “Citizen-Scientist Dialogue” since 2021 while exploring the activities of scientists that respond to the demands of the public. So far, four “dialogues” have dealt with issues of the scientists’ role pertinent to the occasion. We in practice had not got much citizen participation. Therefore, this time, valuing the public relations in making a plan of the “dialogue” event, we will listen to the voices of the citizens from the stage of adopting the theme. Thanks to the efforts of a new female secretary who became a member of the board of directors, we were able to receive cooperation from the staff of the Green Corps in the selection of themes and public relations. The theme, “Think about food additives and endocrine disruptors,” was also in response to requests to “talk about food additives.”

About 30 people participated in the “dialogue” held on October 1, but unlike in the past, most of the citizens, especially women, participated in the majority. After the titled lecture by KAWACHI

Toshihide (ret. Dep. of Biological and Environmental Sciences, Kurume Univ.), frank questions and impressions were expressed by the citizen participants, and question-and-answer lasted about one hour, the same as lecture time.

In the lecture, he made a talk from the viewpoint of the merits and demerits of food additives, and pointed out the actual state that a large amount of environmental hormone (endocrine-disrupting chemicals) influence on a widespread scale, despite the regulations against them are ambiguous. In particular, at the stage of inspecting the effects of food additives, etc., only a simple substance is inspected, though they are produced out of multiple chemicals, there is no test on their synergetic effect. Details of the lecture are posted on the Fukuoka branch website¹.

(KOBAYAKAWA Yoshihisa, Fukuoka branch)

Activities (8) <i>JJS</i> Vol.57, No.12 December (2022), p.48 (728)
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JSA Food Problem Research Committee: 2022 Open Research Meeting on Food and Agriculture in Japan, “Current Situation and Issues of Food Labeling”

I, HARA, gave a report on the above theme on September 10th (Saturday) in the 3rd series of online research meetings held by this committee. About 18 people participated.

Food labeling regulations have been in a state of flux for several years. Food labeling administration was centralized under the Consumer Affairs Agency, which was established in 2009. Since the Food Labeling Act was enacted, the labeling standards have been continuously reviewed.

The labeling of ingredients and land of origin is now applicable to all processed foods. Since crude label as “imported” and labeling of product cite of intermediate raw materials as “domestic manufacturing” were introduced, the country of origin of raw materials became obscure.

There are many loopholes in the current labeling system for both food additive labeling and genetic recombination labeling, and though the information consumers want to know is unclear, a review committee of the Consumer Affairs Agency decided to maintain the current labeling system.

The inadequate labeling system is compensated for by labels such as “non-genetically modified” and “additive-free” and “non-use” for food additives. In response to the voices of consumers seeking safety and security, such labels are a result of pursuing non-use and reduction of food additives and genetically modified raw materials. However, as a result of the fact that these descriptions were

¹ <http://jsa-fukuoka.sakura.ne.jp/topics/files/0aa34cdcd677ed3159983ea721da913c-20.html>

raised as a controversial issue at this review meeting and it was decided to strengthen regulations, these descriptions disappeared from products. Awareness of these things is disappearing from consumers. That is because there is a structure in which the investigative committee only accepts the opinions of business operators (industry) in the words of “feasibility” and does not accept the opinions of consumers. Looking back, the Abe administration's policy of prioritizing economic growth and promoting advanced science led to this kind of consumer-ignoring administration.

Opinions were exchanged between the participants and me, and they shared the need for persistent citizen efforts in the future.

(HARA Eiji, Consumers Federation of Japan)

Activities (9) JJS Vol.57, No.12 December (2022), p.49 (729)

6th Corona Issue Consecutive Learning Session was held on September 17th by Tokyo Branch

The lecturer was SOKAWA, Yoshihiro and the title was “Why did the novel coronavirus emerge, what did it leave behind, and where does it go?” The main contents of the report were as follows:

(1) WHO Director-General Tedros's remark that “the end is in sight” was based on that the infection rates in major countries of Europe and the United States reached the range of 30-50% and the vaccine completion rates reached 60-90% in major countries of the world. However, Japan, which has entered the 7th wave, is in the midst of the world's highest level of infection spread and death toll. In the past, it is said that the infection rate to reach herd has been about 70%, but the current rate in Japan is said to be about 50%.

(2) The Japanese government and an expert committee of Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare initially said, “No airborne infections have occurred, and it would be effective to give everyone a PCR test.” However, it is now confirmed worldwide that airborne infection (aerosol infection) is the main route. Suppression of PCR testing by adhering to cluster measures that emphasized tuberculosis and leprosy patients was a total mistake in the emergence of new epidemics in which many asymptomatic infected people have become epicenters.

(3) As for infectious diseases caused by viruses, as a general rule, viruses with strong infectivity mutate and survive. But when antibodies are produced in humans and the vaccination rate increases, vaccine against the new coronavirus can reduce the severity of the disease. The preventive effects of vaccination, however, are weak at present.

During the question-and-answer session, the lecturer said that the success or failure of China's control of the epidemic would determine the global convergence of the epidemic. He told to pay attention to misleading public opinion that non-woven masks were essential as a countermeasure against infectious diseases, ventilation was effective, and the mortality rate was not that great compared to the Spanish flu, and stated that a factor X, which became a hot topic due to the low infection number of in Asia at first, is thought not to exist due to the rapid increase since then, etc. (YONEDA Mitsugu, Tokyo branch)

Activities (10) JJS Vol.57, No.12 December (2022), p.49 (729)
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Miyazaki branch regular meeting: Learning the economic relationship between Europe and Russia

On September 27, 2022, the Miyazaki Branch of the JSA held the first regular meeting of the year online. KANAYA Yoshihiro (Economics) gave a lecture titled “Economic Relations between Europe and Russia Focused on Energy Dependence.”

On February 24, 2022, Russia invaded Ukraine and changed the status quo by military force, leading to criticism from Western countries. Economic sanctions against Russia were implemented. This has had a serious impact on grain supply, energy resource, and the world economy, and the war situation continues to be in a stalemate. The lecture was focused particularly on energy issue, and delivered not about the political bargaining, such as the invasion and counteroffensive after February 24th, and the economic sanctions by other countries, but about the underlying economic dependency between Europe and Russia, as well as about the economic structure progressing in 3, 5 and 10 years.

First, the lecturer explained his view of energy flow based on the viewpoint of energy problem, and then analyzed the actual state of energy consumption in the major countries and regions of the world. From these facts, I understood that Europe's basic strategy is to take thorough countermeasures against global warming and climate change in response to those of the United States, China, and Asia.

Next, he explained that the Russian economy and society were heavily dependent on the export of energy resources, and oil and natural gas. I understood that the current situation was that the transportation network such as the pipelines of Russia was complicatedly arranged so that it is intertwined between Europe and Russia. By looking at the relationship between Europe and Russia in terms of energy dependence, part of the economic background of Russia's ongoing invasion of

Ukraine has become clear.

There were 24 participants, and since the meeting was an online format, we could invite some of them from outside the prefecture. After the lecture, there was a lively exchange of opinions among the participants.

(KINOSHITA Osamu, Secretary General, Miyazaki Branch)

Activities (11) <i>JJS</i> Vol.58, No.1 January (2023), p.53 (53)
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10.29 Lecture Aimed at “Reviving” Japanese Academics

On the afternoon of October 29, the Kyoto Branch held a lecture at Doshisha University to learn about the current situation surrounding academic freedom and to seek the “rebirth” of scholarship. It was held at the university's Shinmachi campus. 80 people at the venue and about 300 people in the simultaneous broadcast by IWJ watched the four lectures.

The first lecture was given by NAGATA Kazuhiro Nagata, Professor Emeritus of Kyoto University and Director of the JT Biohistory Research Hall, titled “Criticism in Learning: The problem concerning rejection of appointment to the members of Science Council of Japan (SCJ)”. Beginning with the difference between studying and learning, he took the debate over the theory of spontaneous generation of life as an example and shows the importance of constantly asking questions in learning. By citing the words of his colleague, YAMANAKA Shinya, he emphasized that we can get closer to the truth by always verifying the preceding research, and that science cannot exist without it. He pointed out that this lack of “criticality” is the essence of the issue of refusal to appoint SCJ members, and it leads to a denial of not just academic freedom, but academics themselves. He concluded by saying, “the SCJ problem is not just for the academic world.”

The next lecture was by IKEUCHI Ryo, Professor Emeritus of Nagoya University, titled “The acceleration of the military-academia joint line: academia captured into the military security”. During the rapid progress of the military-academia joint line since the ABE Cabinet, the status of participation in the “Security Technology Research Promotion System” over the past eight years, some research institutes are addicted into military research. Now, 30 universities have issued statements against military research and are holding up. However, under the new policy by the government panel of experts, the “National Research and Development Agency” will play a central role in promoting military research. It was pointed out that the military research is progressing and that universities are

becoming followers which is dangerous situation. He introduced the words of Minister KONO, “Universities that do not cooperate with the government should not use *Kakenhi* (Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Research),” and the word of Ghandi “Academics without character and lacking humanity are meaningless” and he encouraged the university people to “have pride and be critical.”

The third lecture was given by IDA Kumiko, Professor Emeritus of Osaka Prefectural University, titled “Defamation by politicians to academia: the point of issue of feminism and Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Research lawsuit”. She spoke about the significance of the lawsuit as a member of the plaintiff group that filed the lawsuit. SUGITA Mio, a LDP-member of the Diet, commented on gender research using *Kakenhi* in twitters and TV programs as “It hurts the national interest” and “(Comfort women are) a fabrication.” She said that it was not only defamation and interference to scientific research, but also amounts to an unfair evaluation of gender research itself. As well as political degradation, she also warned to judicial bias that the judges themselves do not respect the meaning of the gender studies.

The last lecture was given by YOSHINAKA Takeshi, chairman of the Kyoto Health Association and editor of “The 731st Unit and University.” It was a dense content with more than 70 slides. After explaining the deeds of Unit 731, a war crime committed by a medical scientist, along the subtitle “To prevent the mobilization of science into war”, He stated that nine lessons which were learned from Unit 731. In particular, I was so impressed by the fictional nature of medical ethics, such as the justification of anatomy based on the supremacy of academic progress, and the positive reaction due to the resonance of expectations for Manchukuo and also racist claims.

(MAEDA Koji, Kyoto Branch)

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Mie Branch’s Research Meeting on the Theme of “Social Character and Social Background of Nursing Caregivers’ Homicides”

On September 26, 2022, the Mie Branch held a branch research meeting with TANAKA Takeshi of Mie Junior College as a reporter, with the theme of “Thinking about the Social Character and Social Background of Nursing Care Homicides.”

Based on surveys conducted in Mie and Aichi prefectures since 2016, TANAKA argues that the purpose of nursing caregivers’ homicides research is to analyze the social factors related to incidents with the method of symptomatic inquiry about their signs in the situation where nursing caregivers’

problems become more serious. He emphasized the importance of care securities and life securities.

One of the examples is the murder incident in which an elder sister was killed by her aged younger sister in March 2021. This case was not only a problem of nursing caregiver's burden but also a problem of value judgement that the younger sister had internalized in her life history. She felt it was hard to see her elder sister became immobile. Although her own living became poorer, she had kept a lesson from her parents "not to depend on aid from others and not to cause them a trouble." Regarding such a background, TANAKA concluded that the reality of nursing care homicides is murder-suicide.

Furthermore, he pointed out that nursing caregivers' homicide is a combination of five factors of health disease, economic labor, family relations, social relations, and social security measures and that our way of understanding families is very important in social security policies because the Japanese system of social welfare and social security, whether elderly, handicapped or parenting policies, is designed on the basis of the premise that family members should support each other.

In conclusion, he insisted that nursing care homicide is not only a problem of caregiver's fatigue but also a multi-layered problem made from five factors and that we need multi-layered involvements not to trivialize the nursing caregivers' homicide into the individual problem.

In the discussion, there were some arguments: Compared with the child welfare system influenced by the Convention on the Rights of the Children, some international treaties influence the construction of the system of nursing care policies. Especially in the field of family policies, there is a difference in the social positioning of elderly nursing care, and so on.

(MAEDA Sadataka, Secretary of Mie Branch)

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Fukui Branch's Public Lecture (Regular Branch Meeting) "The Reality of the War: Eight Months after the Russian Invasion of Ukraine"

The Fukui Branch held its regular meeting as a public lecture on October 22, 2022 at the Fukui Prefectural Education Center. Live viewing was also used online. The lecturer was ONO Hajime (modern German politics, Kogakuin University), who is a branch member. Below is a summary of the lecture².

The aim of this public lecture consisted in the question: "The principle of 'collective security' is enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations Charter. Nevertheless, a member state has openly

² This lecture was reprinted and published on the 139th issue of the *Journal of Fukui Scientists* (<https://jsafukui.net/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/福井の科学者 2023 年 1 月号 139 号 y.pdf>).

violated this principle. In this case, is there anything society can do about this?" ONO explained the following points:

1. "Realism" as a style of thinking, one of clues to decipher the chaotic international situation
2. Ukrainian internal affairs after its independence
3. Comparison with other dispute cases
4. A war that is expected to last for a long time, and our tasks

"Idealism" such as the "UN Charter" has a history of failing to prevent war. "Realism" that emphasizes what actually exists analyzes the reality of international politics. "Idealism" and "realism" appear repeatedly in the history of international politics. Realism is not pro-war. The difference lies in the "methods" for realizing peace. It's not a matter of which is better or worse, we need both perspectives. However, some scholars take a "realist" stance and put forward a "geopolitical" argument, but it is necessary to distinguish between them.

Ukraine is a multi-ethnic country, and with the dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1991, historically became independent for the first time. Five years later, the constitution was finally enacted. There were some political turmoil, e.g., the Orange Revolution, the Euromaidan Revolution, and so on. Today, it is under the Russian invasion.

As we know, the Ukrainian refugee issue has been highlighted. But the Syrian refugees have been forgotten. Russia's aggression against Ukraine cannot be tolerated. At the same time, we should not forget that Israel's military occupation and blockade of Palestine and Gaza is ignored.

Are the remaining tasks for us not military assistance but humanitarian aid and diplomacy?
(OGURA Hisakazu, Fukui Branch)

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Gunma Branch Autumn Seminar "Labor Shortage and Focusing on Foreign Technical Intern Trainees" (October 5, 2022, Online) event

Among the foreign workers in Japan, the rate of increase in the number of foreign technical intern trainees is high. Foreign technical intern trainees have become a key labor force in small and medium enterprises. How should we approach these facts?

If foreign technical intern trainees are becoming a central part of the labor force, then their treatment should be improved accordingly. , 3 years (or 5 years) of internship and stick to the minimum wage level. Why aren't the treatment of foreign technical intern trainees improved? Why are there still disappearances? Is it justifiable to restrict workers' rights, such as workplace transfers? In this seminar, classical theories such as the dual labor market theory and the acceptance of temporary immigrant workers were discussed. We tried to position it theoretically by introducing pro and con arguments of the system. During the Q&A session, we discussed the following points:

- 1) Trends in foreign worker policy under the KISHIDA administration.
- 2) Is it possible to accept immigrants in the future?
- 3) A technical internship system premised upon returning to one's home country.
- 4) If there is a labor shortage, wages will rise. Why won't wages go up? there also the accumulation of internal reserves by large companies?
- 5) Each of the workers owes 500,000 yen in his/her home country. The debt must be paid within three years, but wages in Japan are falling due to the lowering of Japanese currency, yen. Japan is not an attractive labor market any longer.
- 6) Suggesting Korean Employment Permit System.

They are accepting foreign workers as immigrants straight on. Isn't it possible to adopt that system to Japan?

As described above, the discussion was viral.

(NAGATA Shun)

Activities (15) JJS Vol.58, No.1 January (2023), p.55 (55)

Linear Tunnel Excavation might affect Entire Southern Alps – Researcher's testimonies October 17th (Monday) there was a court hearing on 'Stop Linear' Movement at the Tokyo District Court.

The 24th hearing began at 10:00 am when the experts and specialists' testimonies were read having requested by a panel of plaintiffs. There were three testimonies, one in the morning and two in the afternoon.

The first testimony was given by KOIZUMI Takeei, a professor emeritus of natural geography and geo-ecology at Tokyo Gakugei University, According to him, The mountains of Southern Alps are round shaped and massive. They have even the fastest growing rate, that is, 5 mm a year. Its land is soft and fragile with high precipitation rate. Furthermore, the mountains store a large amount of ground water, its soil is weak, the amount of precipitation is high, so the mountains store a large amount of groundwater, making the mountains moist and suitable for plants to grow. Building tunnels means A drop of 200 to 300 m in the groundwater level due to excavation. This will have a major impact on the high land vegetation of the alpine zone, drying the entire mountainous area. The reduction in main stream flow will also be much greater than estimated, said he.

MATSUSHIMA Nobuyuki, 92 years old, was the first speaker in the afternoon session, introduced by the attorney. Since the age of 22 or 23 years old, he has conducted his geological research in the mountains of the Southern Alps, and discovered that Southern Alps were formed at the end of the Mesozoic Era. For this geological achievement, in 1995, he received his doctorate by Kyushu University. Linear that crosses the Southern Alps Digging illegal tunnels where water supports the mountains, the impact and load on the nature will be worst in the future. You mustn't do that, and

you mustn't fill deep valleys with surplus soil. Some parts of Southern Alps have dried up and turned into a rocky mountains. . The speaker was applauded when he finished his speech.

The final testimony was given by AMANO Shoichi, the secretary general of the plaintiffs group of Kawasaki residents. The group was formed in order to accuse the excessive coerciveness and concealing JR Tokai who were hiding possible environmental impact from the perspective of Kawasaki citizens who suffered from pollution. He pointed out the poor selection of the price book and the heavy impact on the residents. The trial is scheduled to conclude with a verdict in March next year.

(NAKANO Sadahiko, JSA Linier Research Committee)

<i>After the 24th SOGAKU (Comprehensive Scientific Study Convention)</i>

In an opening speech of the third Executive Committee of the JSA on December 25, 2022, OTAKE Midori referred to the summary of the 24th SOGAKU (CSSC) held in November/December 2022

The 24th *SOGAKU* (Comprehensive Scientific Study Convention) was held from November 19 to December 11, 2022. It was a hybrid-style study convention: the main venue in Osaka University was nationwide connected with each participant per online. There were three general meetings and 34 section meetings, and the number of the registered participants amounted to 629. It was successful with a total number of 1,419 participants who discussed enthusiastically. Thank you very much for an effort of the JSA Osaka branch and of all committee members who run a series of events of the 24th *SOGAKU* (CSSC).

Since the 23th *SOGAKU* (CSSC) 2020 held in online-style to avoid COVID-19 infection, online-style activities have been as usual also in the *SOGAKU* (CSSC) committee. We have been obliged to manage other types of discussions compared with face-to-face meetings because we have been unable to gather in a common place. Online-style meeting saves us time and money. Using some advantages of online, we got a potential type of meeting opportunities through which many participants can share common topics virtually and discuss each other. We hope for further development of our discussions taking advantages both of online and of face-to-face meetings.

By the way, the world order has been confused since the Russian invasion of Ukraine on February 24, 2022. Including countermeasures against COVID-19 infection, humankind embraces a lot of environmental destruction problems with which all people in the world must cooperate together. However, the solution of environmental problems are regarded as second priority because world citizens must now concentrate on an emergency measure of ceasefire.

In the middle of this confusion, the Japanese administration under Premier KISHIDA Fumio launched a drastic change of post-war policies such as increase of military budget, restart or replace of nuclear power plants (NPPs), and so on, in quick succession, and without enough deliberation in the Diet.

In such a situation, the scientific analyses and the solutions for global warming developed in the history of the Japan Scientists' Association (JSA) become more important.

I (Otake) hope you, regional executives, will make a fruitful discussion in today's executive committee and will show our important role of scientists in the present situation.

Events and Statements

On December 24, 2022, the Nuclear Problem Research Committee of the JSA published a protest statement against the decision of Osaka District Court, in which a request for an injunction of the aged reactor 3 of Mihama NPP was refused (<https://jsa.gr.jp/d/statement/20221223mihama3>).

On December 22, 2022, the Peace Problem Research Committee of the JSA published a protest statement against three cabinet decisions related to the New Security Policy and insisted that the nations have no obligation to obey such an unconstitutional order (https://jsa.gr.jp/d/statement/jsaheimonken_seimei20221222). This statement led to the Executive Committee's decision published on January 31, 2023 (<https://jsa.gr.jp/d/statement/20230131anpo>).

On December 25, 2022, the 3rd JSA Executive Committee discussed about the draft of the "Statement to protest against the amendment of the Law of the Science Council of Japan and to demand a Self-Reformation of the Government." This text was published on the JSA website after the editorial work in the draft committee. (<https://jsa.gr.jp/d/statement/20230131scj>)

Events Information <https://jsa.gr.jp/05event/index.html>

What's New

The Proceedings & Reports of the 24th Comprehensive Scientific Study Convention (ISSN: 0913-6584) was published on January 30, 2023 (https://jsa.gr.jp/d/_media/sougaku/24/24sougaku_proceedings.pdf). The recording of the E1 subcommittee “What Influences will the Act on Promotion of Economic Security and the Act on International Research Universities of Excellence bring to Academic Freedom and Autonomy?” is available per YouTube (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ykqXtSyFMlc>).

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”, <https://jsa.gr.jp/intl/introduction.html>)

The Journal of Japanese Scientists (JJS), a monthly magazine published by the JSA, is a unique comprehensive academic journal, in which scientists and citizens share various subjects relating to contemporary human society and interests in nature (https://jsa.gr.jp/intl/Introduction_of_JJS.pdf). You see all contents of back-numbers: <https://jsa.gr.jp/04pub/index.html#nihonnokagakusya>. 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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