

## THE BULLETIN OF JSA

No.172, April 25, 2023



いちめんのなのはな  
いちめんのなのはな  
いちめんのなのはな  
いちめんのなのはな  
いちめんのなのはな  
いちめんのなのはな  
いちめんのなのはな

Allover Yellow  
Allover Yellow  
Allover Yellow  
Allover Yellow  
Allover Yellow  
Allover Yellow  
Allover Yellow

(山村暮鳥の詩より)

(by YAMAMURA Bocho)

(Photo: by Makoto Yamasaki, in *Nanohana-Road*, Kamogawa, Chiba Prefecture, December 2020)

### «CONTENT»

#### *Activities*

*JSA Executive Committee's decision "We protest against the amendment of the Act on the Science Council of Japan and demand a Self-Reformation of the Government"*

#### *Events and Statements*

#### *What's New*

#### *About Us*

***2022 Hokkaido Science Symposium was held: Reports and discussions on regional development in Hokkaido***

On November 3 (Thursday, national holiday), the above symposium was held at Sapporo Gakuin University's Shin-Sapporo Campus, hosted by the JSA Hokkaido branch. This symposium was held online simultaneously. There were 18 participants at the venue and 13 online.

In the second part, a symposium open to the public was held, “What is the road to regional development in Hokkaido? Thinking about the JR<sup>1</sup> issue and the nuclear power plant issue.” The main theme of the public symposium is to consider Hokkaido's sluggish economy from two points of view: “Hokkaido's JR problem” and “regional development independent from nuclear power.” We were able to organize this project because there were people involved in the JR study group and the Hokkaido Research Institute for Regional and Local Government Issues<sup>2</sup>.

Six years after the JR Hokkaido offered to consult with local governments on the grounds that 10 lines and 13 line sections were in the red and “cannot be maintained on its own”, West Japan Railway Company (JR West) followed JR Hokkaido's footsteps with 17 lines and 30 line sections. And JR East with 35 lines and 66 line sections were announced as deficit. Even if both the JR West and the JR East are in the black as a whole, the JR Group becomes a private company and has begun to move to the abolition of the deficit line area. In this way, the abolition of railway lines has come to be viewed as a problem throughout the country, and a “modal shift” controversy has arisen, and various new laws have been enacted to maintain public transportation.

According to CHIWAKI Masataka, when considering the economy of Hokkaido, transportation of agricultural products by freight trains will become essential, and an increase is expected. Even if the number of passenger transport decreases, if freight transport increases, the mass transport, punctuality, and stability of railroads will show their strengths. To turn tourism into a resource, it is necessary to maintain the railway network. In order to make full use of the excellent characteristics of railways even from a national perspective, a new mechanism such as re-nationalization on top of the upper and lower separation system (a system to separate train operation and maintenance for railway

---

<sup>1</sup> “JR” is the abbreviation of “Japan Railways.” In 1987, the Japanese National Railways (JNR) was privatized and reorganized into the JR Group (6 regional passenger transportation companies, 1 freight transportation company, and so on).

<sup>2</sup> <https://dojichiken.blogspot.com>

infrastructure) is essential.

KODA Kiyoshi clarified the changes in the economy and population due to the introduction of nuclear power plants in the Kamoenai, Tomari, Iwanai, and Suttsu areas through many years of research. According to this report, the *Gan-u* district (Kamoenai village, Tomari village, Iwanai town and Kyowa town) will receive 195.4 billion Yen from 1984 to 2019 in *Dengen-Sanpo*<sup>3</sup> subsidies and property taxes. The electric power company paid 21.1 billion Yen as fisheries compensation and regional development funds, but these funds did not foster a strong local economy, and halved the population by reducing the population of fishermen and the fishery processing industry.

In Tomari Village, where the nuclear power plant is located, the overall population is declining, and the electricity, gas, and service industries related to the nuclear power plant are increasing. There is concern about what will happen to the key industries that support the region after that. Examples of small-scale regional development measures that make use of nature, climate, and sustainable industries include the Tokachi *Den-en* City Plan centering on Obihiro City, the regional collaboration plan for Naie Town (wide-area production association, nursing care, firefighting, waste disposal), Attempts to pursue “appropriate sparseness” rather than depopulation were introduced, such as Otoineppu Village’s support policy for craft high schools.

In Part 1, KOBAYASHI Emi, “Fairtrade Coffee Production in Brazil: An Interview Survey at Possos de Caldas,” TANIGUCHI Tomohiro, “The Law of Academic Freedom as a Civil Liberty,” and KONNO Shigeru, “Wind Turbine Sound Measurement Manual is under preparation.” Three presentations were made.

(EMI Seijiro, Executive Secretary of Hokkaido Branch)

<b>Activities (2) <i>JJS</i> Vol.58, No.2 February (2023), p.54 (110)</b>
---

***Fieldwork around Kumagaya industrial history and war remains: JSA Saitama Branch***

On November 5th, when the weather was perfect for excursions, we held the annual fieldwork.

From the midnight of August 14th to the dawn of August 15th, 1945, Kumagaya City in the northern part of Saitama Prefecture was hit by an air raid by US military aircraft. This was the last air

---

<sup>3</sup> *Dengen-Sanpo* (Three Power Source Development Laws) consist of the “Act on Tax for Promotion of Power-Resources Development”, “the Special Budget Law for the Development of Electric Power” and “the Act on the Development of Areas Adjacent to Electric Power Generating Facilities”, which were constituted in 1974.

raid of the World War II and the largest air raid in Saitama Prefecture, with 226 deaths, and Kumagaya City was designated as the only city damaged by the war in Saitama Prefecture.

The Katakura Silk Museum is located on the site of the factory, which was the last silk mill of Katakura Industries. Inside the museum, the machines and warehouses those were actually used are on display, and visitors can observe the process of making raw silk from cocoons. In 2007, the museum was selected as a modern industrial heritage. “St. Paul's Church” is a full brick church built in 1919. The building survived the Kumagaya air raids and was registered as a cultural property in 2005. There is a Japanese zelkova trees that survived the war damage at Chikata Shrine. The excursion garden “Seikei-en” which was built by TAKEI Tanjo, a city-designated cultural property near Hoshikawa River. In the precincts of the adjacent Sekijoji Temple, there is a bust of Dr. Edward MORSE, who is famous for discovering the Omori shell mound, along with the zelkova trees that survived the war fire. In 1879, he lectured on Darwin's theory of evolution at this temple, commemorating the fact that the temple became the location of memory for lectures by the first foreign scientists at Saitama Prefecture. “*Heiwa Jizoson* also named *Hibuse Jizo*” is enshrined in the nearby decaying hall. The Statue of the War Memorial Goddess on Hoshikawa Bridge was erected on August 16, 1975 by KITAMURA Seibo (creator of the Nagasaki Peace Prayer Statue). In one plot of the ruins of Kusanji Temple, which was destroyed in an air raid, there is a “*Migawari Jizo*” built to commemorate the war victims. “Kumagaya Girls’ Upper Secondary School” is the only girls' high school that suffered war damage in Saitama Prefecture, and the school gate that survived the fire is still in use as the north gate.

After visiting Kumagaya City, where is full of highlights, we parted ways at JR Kumagaya Station.

(NIU Kiyosato)

<b>Activities (3) <i>JJS</i> Vol.58, No.2 February (2023), p.54 (110)</b>
---

***Autumn Lecture of “Hazuki no Kai” report: JSA Tokyo Branch***

The “*Hazuki no Kai*” (August Society), a voluntary group of women researchers and engineers of the Tokyo branch, was held online from 18:00 to 20:30 on November 26, 2022<sup>4</sup>. There were 27 participants on the day, including those who were not members of the Tokyo branch. The meeting was moderated by MINEO Naoko, and the participants introduced themselves after greetings from the

---

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.jsa-tokyo.jp/woman/haduki/20221126hadukinokai-chirasi.pdf>

organizer, NAKAJIMA Akiko.

After that, we listened to the main event of the day, ANEHA Aki of Komazawa University, who gave a 1-hour lecture entitled “Impact of the rise of extreme right-wing parties in Sweden: Consequences of neoliberalism”, followed by a general discussion. From September 2020 to March 2022, she has been engaged in research as a visiting researcher at Lund University in Sweden. In Sweden, the general election will be held in September 2022, and the far-right parties have made great strides, and several ruling parties have lost seats. Ms. Andersson, the prime minister, was forced to resign after taking responsibility. The Professor explained that the background to this is the distortion of educational policies due to the increase in immigrants, widening economic disparities, and the deterioration of public security, which are creating dissatisfaction among the people. Concerns were expressed that far-right political parties would further advance the education system and discriminatory policies against immigrants and refugees.

After the lecture, questions and opinions were exchanged for about an hour. Our perception of the Nordic countries was that they were advanced countries with gender equality, enhanced social security, and democratic political systems. In the recent world situation, immigrants and refugees from conflict countries are moving to Europe in search of safety. In the Nordic countries, free education progresses, but it is said that discrimination is deepening between the wealthy people and the poor and immigrants in selection of schools. It made me keenly aware of the need to hereafter perceive the Scandinavian countries carefully and differently than before.

(IKEGAMI Yukie)

<b>Activities (4) <i>JJS</i> Vol.58, No.2 February (2023), p.55 (111)</b>
---

***Aichi Branch Academic Lecture: “Historical Perception of Japanese people and Today”***

This academic lecture was held on the afternoon of October 30 (Sunday) in a hybrid format. We found a venue in Nagoya City. The lecturer was NAKATSUKA Akira (Professor Emeritus, Nara Women's University). The bookstore “Hotbooks Shin-Sakae” supported us. In advance we had recommended NAKATSUKA Akira: *History of Japan and Korea, Revised Edition*, Kobunken, as reference literature.

On women's education in the Meiji period, there is less appropriate literature about secondary education for girls, when compared with “*Joshi Eigaku Juku*” (Tsuda University) and Japan Women's

University. To this day, we do not know what kind of educational opportunities girls who learned at *Terakoya* (temple schools) in the Edo period had after the Meiji Restoration.

I feel that NAKATSUKA's lecture has clarified a part of the question.

More than ten years ago, as I attended an academic conference at Seoul National University in South Korea, I visited the famous *Namdaemun* ("South Great Gate"). When I went to the *Dongdaemun* ("Great East Gate"), I was shocked that it, different from the "South Great Gate", reproduced the atrocities committed by Japan vividly. Our event brought back those memories of mine. Especially during the Meiji Restoration, Japan's colonial rule created a system, under the name of modernization, violate the Korean sovereignty and suppress Korean people thoroughly.

How did such rule affect girls' education in the period of the Meiji Restoration? On examining the history of women's education in modern Japan, I noticed that the relationship with the Korean peninsula should not be overlooked.

I was struck once again by the necessity to think about the issue of "historical perception" about Korea.

(FUJISAWA Kazue, Aichi Branch)

<b>Activities (5) <i>JJS</i> Vol.58, No.2 February (2023), p.55 (111)</b>
---

***Fukuoka Branch: Report on the reading circle of the Journal of Japanese Scientists (JJS) in November 2022: The special feature "Stop the high-Speed Maglev Transport System"***

Since more than 20 years the Fukuoka branch has been holding a reading circle of *the Journal of Japanese Scientists (JJS)* on the second Monday of each month, mainly for retired employees. Many of the members at the beginning are already dead. On November 14th, 4 people participated in this monthly meeting.

The JSA issued a statement calling for the withdrawal and cancellation of maglev transport system project, and has been trying to clarify the irrationality and falsity of JR<sup>5</sup> Tokai's assertion about the purpose of maglev transport system constructing. But in the recent House of Councillors election, many of the ruling and opposition parties made it clear in their pledges that they would work to develop the maglev transport system as soon as possible. Scientific, creative, broader and more persistent actions for the withdrawal and cancellation efforts are needed. The maglev transport system

---

<sup>5</sup> See: footnote 1.



constructing was not a familiar problem because it is far from Fukuoka, but the following three papers deepened my understanding.

OTSUKA's paper pointed out many problems of tunnel construction work of the maglev transport system that crosses a fault zone that continues to uplift and collapse. The maglev transport system is located in an area where tremors of seismic intensity 6 or higher are expected in a Nankai Trough earthquake. The paper also raises concerns about security after opening as danger of wall collapse and other damage and high likelihood of emergency stops in tunnels.

KASHIDA's article pointed out the problem of the mass media which do not report on JR Tokai's maglev transport project. They report nothing about the briefing for residents on the environmental impact assessment methods and the preparations where the participants were outraged, because they didn't get concrete answers to their questions. In the administrative court case which was filed to revoke the business license as a last resort, all media covered the march into the court with banners. Three civil lawsuits are being filed seeking an injunction against maglev transport system construction.

SAKURAI's paper points out that it is clear that construction will not be completed, at least not on schedule, because the increase in construction costs due to the sloppy environmental impact assessment of the project, the decrease in JR Tokai's fare revenue due to the coronavirus disaster, and its slow recovery have made the financial plan for the construction uncertain.

(KIKUKAWA Kiyoshi, Fukuoka Branch)

<b>Activities (6) <i>JJS</i> Vol.58, No.3 March (2023), p.53 (165)</b>
--

***The Japan Scientists' Association: The 24th SOGAKU (Comprehensive Scientific Study Convention) in Osaka***

The 24th SOGAKU (Comprehensive Scientific Study Convention) in Osaka was held from November 19th to December 11th, 2022. The main theme is “Science and Society under the Novel Coronavirus/Climate Crisis” with the subtitle “Seeking Decarbonization, Denuclearization, and Wealthy”. The 24th convention was held at a time when the people were struggling with the social contradictions amplified by the neo-liberal policies of advanced countries, and the corona crisis and Russia's invasion of Ukraine were adding to the social contradictions. Unlike the past convention, taking advantage of the hybrid holding including online, the holding period was set to about 3 weeks, and the maximum number of concurrently held breakout sessions was 3 so that as many breakout

sessions as possible could be attended. As a result, the total number of participants was more than doubled to 1,419 out of 629 registered participants.

In December 2021, we organized an executive committee in the Kinki region centered on the Osaka branch and began preparations. In March 2022, the first Circular was issued, inviting applications for online subcommittees and announcing the schedule. In June, the 2nd Circular was issued, and a plenary session consisting of 3 special reports and 32 subcommittees were established, and presentations at the subcommittee were solicited. Special Report 1 is SHIMODA Tadashi (Professor Emeritus, Osaka University) “War and Peace: Focusing on the History of Nuclear Weapons Development”, Special Report 2 is NAKAGAWA Keisuke (Gifu University) “Coronavirus and One Health”, Special Report 3 I asked ASAOKA Emi (Representative of *Kiko* Network), “Climate Crisis and Human Rights,” respectively. The 3rd Circular was issued in October and announced the program of the subcommittees with 145 reports. In early November, we posted “Participation Registration” and “Access Information/Proceedings” on the Japan Scientists’ Association website.

On the first day of the workshop (November 19th), we held a hybrid plenary session 1 and A1 subcommittee at Osaka University. On the other hand, there were problems such as poor online audio in one section and plenary session 3, and the technical issues of holding a hybrid conference remained.

All three plenary sessions had nearly 100 participants, but the number of participants in the subcommittees ranged from 10 to 90, depending on the characteristics of each subcommittees. The breakdown of the 629 registrants was 357 members of Japan Scientists’ Association, and 271 non-members, 43 percent of whom were non-members. About 25 percent of the registrants were women, and about 60 percent were over the age of 60. Unfortunately, the number of young and mid-career registrants was small, but the fact that there were registrants from all prefectures and overseas shows the superiority of holding online.

Participation was free of charge, but 133 people contributed, and we were able to complete the event without any financial difficulties. Non-member participants also requested a sample *Journal of Japanese Scientists (JJS)* and applied for membership. In January 2023, 180 copies of “The Proceedings & Reports of the 24th Comprehensive Scientific Study Convention” were published<sup>6</sup> and distributed to those who reserved the copies for a fee.

Finally, I would like to thank the executive committee members, students and graduate students who provided online support, the special reporters of the plenary session, the persons in charge of setting up subcommittees, the reporters of the subcommittees, and the registrants for their efforts in

---

<sup>6</sup> [https://jsa.gr.jp/d/\\_media/sougaku/24/24sougaku\\_proceedings.pdf](https://jsa.gr.jp/d/_media/sougaku/24/24sougaku_proceedings.pdf)



preparing and holding the 24th *SOGAKU*. Thank you very much.

(HATA Akio, The 24th *SOGAKU* Chief)

<b>Activities (7) <i>JJS</i> Vol.58, No.3 March (2023), p.54 (166)</b>
--

***Study and exchange opinions on university issues: JSA Hokkaido Branch***

We had always wanted to have a discussion on how to deal with the current situation in which politician's intervention against academic freedom is becoming a serious threat to the academism itself. Due to the super-busy situation of the JSA Hokkaido members, we could not have a discussion session until October 1st, when we finally held a discussion entitled "Opinion Exchange Meeting for Grasping and Improving the Current Status of Universities" in order to deepen our understanding on the current situation via questionnaire surveys, and to explore the improvement measures.

Following that, on December 15, an online study session was held, by inviting MITSUMOTO Shigeru of Hokkaido University as a lecturer on the "Revision of ministerial ordinances such as standards for establishing universities," which was notified by an academic scientist on September 30.

Originally, the University Establishment Standards used to set standards for teacher qualifications, educational organization, and school grounds and buildings, in order to improve educational conditions. Today, however, the Ministry of Education is controlling the academism.

In response to the recommendations of the Education Future Council, this revision also has a strong aspect of easing regulations in order to expand science and engineering fields such as digital human resources and green resource development. Three serious problems were reported:

First, the faculty organization, administrative organization, and welfare organization are becoming abolished and replaced with the "education and research implementation bureau". The position of university faculties, who play a central role in academic research, is declining, and administrative staff has started acting following the dictatorship of the board of trustees.

Second, the full-time/tenure system is getting abolished and replaced with the "core faculty system". A quarter of faculties can be adjunct lecturers lecturing eight or more credits per year each. This is intended to reduce the number of full-time faculty members in charge of enabling adjuncts from outside of academism including business personnel.

The third problem is the establishment of the standard for infrastructure and facilities including equipment--this may lead to a lowering of the minimum standard.

During the exchange of opinions, it was agreed that improvements should be sought rather than compliance with the installation standards. There were 8 participants.  
(MIMA Takahito, Hokkaido branch)

<b>Activities (8) JJS Vol.58, No.3 March (2023), p.54 (166)</b>
---

***Exchange meeting for young people working on nuclear abolition and climate change (Nuclear Abolition Network Kyoto Association): JSA Kyoto Branch***

On December 17, 2022, the above-mentioned exchange meeting was held at the Kyoto Medical Insurance Physicians Association on hybrid, having 13 participants. This exchange meeting was realized by the Kyoto Association for the Abolition of Nuclear Weapons, which includes the JSA Kyoto Branch, by calling out to the young people of each group working for the abolition of nuclear weapons and overcoming the climate crisis. It was the first opportunity for the association to think about solidarity measures with existing movement groups.

First, slides on the history of the nuclear abolition movement, created based on the panels exhibited at the “Kyoto War for Peace” exhibition<sup>7</sup> were shown. After that, ENDO Akari, the moderator of the Japanese NGO Liaison Committee for the Abolition of Nuclear Weapons, asked what the two initiatives for nuclear abolition and climate change have in common.

To this question, a student activist of FRIDAY FOR FUTURE (FFF) Kyoto, S, answered that FFF<sup>8</sup> is an activity initiated by youths from all over the world, who have sympathized with Greta Thunberg. He said that youths are having an identity crisis. He said that the young people's anxiety about the future has triggered this action, which is somewhat common with the nuclear weapons issue. On the other hand, T, a keyperson of Legislators Watch, in which they watch the Diet members and local legislators about their attitudes toward the Nuclear Weapon Ban Treaty, has given a speech at an FFF meeting. She claimed that the “Let's ask in the election” campaign was effective. Furthermore, a student K made a presentation at the “War Exhibition Student Dialogue Project.” She has just started working with Diet Members Watch. She said that constructive and continuous discussion is necessary as some of the Diet members insist the need of nuclear weapons.

The Nuclear Abolition Network expressed the opinion that nuclear power generation issues are

---

<sup>7</sup> <http://hikaku-kyoto.la.coocan.jp/sensouten20220706.jpg>

<sup>8</sup> <https://fridaysforfuture.jp>

related to renewable energy and energy conservation measures stands on the intersection of nuclear weapons and climate change. Another issue raised was the importance of sharing successful experiences and the need for adults to respond to young people's pure expectation for social justice and the elimination of gap between poor and rich, through organizations and movements.  
(MAEDA Koji, Kyoto Branch)

<b>Activities (9) <i>JJS</i> Vol.58, No.3 March (2023), p.55 (167)</b>
--

***Discussion of Hyogo Prefecture's natural disasters and countermeasures***

On December 17, 2022, the JSA Hyogo Branch held a citizen forum “Hyogo Prefecture's Natural Disasters and Countermeasures” in Kobe City. At this forum, there was a lecture by TAINOSHO Yoshiaki (Professor Emeritus, Kobe University) and a lively discussion. The following is the abstract of the lecture.

In Kobe City's 2022 hazard map, it can be seen that there are many landslide special warning areas for collapses on steep slopes (landslides). Regarding landslides, depending on the topography, the sediment disaster caution area (yellow zone) and the more dangerous area (red zone) directly under the cliff are designated as the sediment disaster special caution area. Mt. Rokko is a mountain that was raised by fault movement, so it has many steep slopes and is composed of granite weathered granite, which is prone to collapse, and has been hit by large landslide disasters many times. Most of the red zones are distributed near the boundary between the urban area and the Rokko Mountains.

Regarding debris flows, the yellow zone is the dangerous area at the exit of the mountain stream, and the red zone is the lowland along the river. Due to the above characteristics of Mt. Rokko, the slope of the river is steep at the southern foot of Mt. Rokko, and the slope is prone to collapse due to rainfall. Although there are many yellow zones on the hazard map, there are only two red zones. The area near the mountain stream exit at the foot of the mountain is dangerous for a debris flow. But in Mt. Rokko, this area has been developed and many houses have been built.

Regarding landslides, areas where tuff (which turns into clay and becomes slippery with water) are dangerous. Kobe City has more than 830 yellow zones, but only two red zones. Since the yellow zone is unregulated, development is progressing and the number of dangerous areas continues to increase.

The meaning of the special warning area is heavy, and the development activity is under a

permission system by the prefectural governor. Strict application of laws is required for administration. In addition to the designation of restricted areas, it is necessary to explain concretely the dangers of the areas to the residents and work on the construction of corresponding facilities.

(HIROMORI Katsuhisa, Hyogo branch)

<b>Activities (10) JJS Vol.58, No.3 March (2023), p.55 (167)</b>
--

***Public Study Session “Escape from Cult Religion: Message of a Former Unification Church’s<sup>9</sup> Believer”***

A study session with the above title was held on December 4, sponsored by “YU *Gakusha*” and supported by the Yamaguchi branch and others. The lecturer, HANADA Norihiko, was a member of the *Genri-ken* (Collegiate Association for the Research of Principles)<sup>10</sup> for three years from 1988 while he was a student at Yamaguchi University. After leaving the group with the help of a Christian pastor, he studied at a seminary and now serves as a pastor at a church in Tachikawa. The outline of the lecture is introduced below.

On a winter night of his second year at university, he cooperated with a senior student who came to his boarding house to complete a questionnaire. He was taken to a hideout near the university and exposed to “love shower”, too much words of admiration. A few months later, at the end of one-week-seminar, the Unification Principle was revealed to him, as he felt it was a place of healing. He was under mind control and it was too late to refuse it. He gave all things to the Unification Church and started poverty life in a communal facility.

Beginning with early morning prayers, there were training and door-to-door sales until late at night, and the university lecture room became a place to supplement sleep time. He was in charge of editing the campus newspaper, and during the summer vacation he made phone calls based on the alumni list and paid for the advertising fees collected. He even met with the police, and he handed them New Left flyers. Many of his seniors were forced to repeat a year because of the election support of the Liberal Democratic Party representatives.

---

<sup>9</sup> Holy Spirit Association for the Unification of World Christianity, known as the Unification Church, was founded in 1954 in Seoul by Sun Myung Moon. Since 1994, it has been called the Family Federation for World Peace and Unification.

<sup>10</sup> The Collegiate Association for the Research of Principles (CARP) is the federation of student’s organizations which study “unification principles”, a creed advocated by Sun Myung Moon.

The Unification Association entered into a place where he was originally interested in environmental issues and was seeking ideas to save the future of mankind. Cults are characterized by a desire for faith and service through intimidation and fear, and a willingness to lie and sacrifice to achieve their goals. He could not leave the cult on his own unless he could find a cult consultation desk that would listen carefully to what he had to say. Like *Aum Shinrikyo*, the believers will remain even if the religious corporate status is stripped, and their mental care will be an issue.

This study session was planned to be held within the university in order to enlighten students, but unfortunately the university did not give permission. However, 40 people participated in the venue in Yamaguchi City, and 12 people participated online. Also, for the first time in many years, students participated, and the timely project was successfully closed.

(MASUYAMA Hiroyuki, Yamaguchi Branch)

<b>Activities (11) <i>JJS</i> Vol.58, No.4 April (2023), p.62 (230)</b>
---

***Kyoto branch New Year's party looking forward to the new year***

After the executive meeting at the beginning of the year, the annual “Online New Year's Party” was held due to the coronavirus pandemic. Each year, the secretaries talk about their aspirations for the year, and new members introduce themselves and report on their own research and interests.

At last year's New Year's party, the activity of “Natural Association”, which had been suspended, became a hot topic and was resumed after that. Personally, I think that it is more important than the general meeting of the executives or the branch general meeting as an opportunity to make proposals about how to hold such initiatives and lectures, and to confirm everyday things that you cannot usually listen to calmly. This is because important tweets that lead to proposals and activities at the board meeting are here. The secretary general and the representative secretary pick it up and connect it to activities.

In the second half of the session, where we confirmed each member's aspirations and asked about the research of new members, we were pleased to receive reports from two members. Both of you were interested in the Study Group on School Truancy and *Hikikomori*, which consists of members of the JSA and receives research grants. He also participated in 24th *Sogaku* and the “Expansion Reading Party” held by the Kyoto branch in November last year. The following are excerpts from their research reports.

First of all, YUZUKI Kenichi, who is working on a truancy and withdrawal consultation business in Osaka at “Education Consultation Osaka”, said that children are facing invisible anxiety due to school refusal in the midst of school closures to prevent the spread of coronavirus. He also talked about the reality of children who find it difficult to remove their masks, and the relationship between zero tolerance and school standards, etc. (See *JJS*, June 2022 issue).

In addition, OKUDA Masashi, who is involved with students who do not attend school or who have developmental disabilities at school, says that from his own experience, there are aspects of “educational standards” that are easy to understand for new teachers as a model. He also introduced the effects (scheduled to be published in the April 2023 issue of the *JJS*).

In line with the “Educational Standards” that are being worked on as a guarantee of the quality of educational content, the current situation where the restrictions on class planning, writing on the blackboard, and class management common to all grades are becoming tighter year by year, will be discussed with the author as the moderator. The number of schools asking for uniformity in terms of class management and whether or not to issue class newsletters is increasing, and when we reported that it is becoming difficult for teachers to implement original practices, participants commented, “I am surprised at the current state of the school. Two hours flew by in the blink of an eye.

There are many issues to consider, such as the situation in Ukraine and the issue of restarting nuclear power plants, but at the beginning of the year, we were able to confirm that we would face the issues cross-sectionally and proceed with our activities. The two people who provided the topics also commented that they were able to discuss beyond their specialized fields and that it was very helpful. (KONDO Mariko, Kyoto Branch)

<b>Activities (12) <i>JJS</i> Vol.58, No.4 April (2023), p.63 (231)</b>
---

***Tokyo Branch’s Journal of Japanese Scientists (JJS) Review Meeting***

On January 21, we held a book review meeting for the January issue of *the Journal of Japanese Scientist (JJS)*. When I was serving as the Permanent National Directors, I learned about the Book Review Meeting of the Journal held at several branches throughout Japan. This Book Review Meeting of Tokyo Branch was begun in August 2016 by volunteer members of the University of Tokyo Graduate School Division. And this year is the 8th year, and this time, we held the meeting as the 76th time. We are holding this meeting every month, and after the COVID-19 disaster, we are holding as online meeting. And even those who do not usually participate can now participate remotely. The

number of participants is about 4 to 5 usually.

The way of proceeding is as follows. (1) To avoid high hurdles for participation, we have not matter whether they have read or not, and whether they have had expertise or knowledge, and (2) We share the part that they had read, and decide who is in charge of the host and minutes keeper. (3) We discuss individual issues based on their impressions and comments. (4) Finally, the procedure is to confirm today's impressions, the theme that we would like to be featured in the next time, schedule, etc., and (5) send the minutes to the *JJS* Editorial Board and the Tokyo Branch Board of Director.

About the significance of the Book Review Meeting, we think that first of all, there are the chances to increase knowledge outside of one's area of specialization. If you are outside of your field of expertise, you may find it difficult to find time to read on a daily basis, and even if you are interested, you may not know how to start. Second, we can systematize the knowledge. Since important themes are featured repeatedly, the continuation of the meeting will be enhanced. Thirdly, the experience of the movement can be exchanged. Thanks to “*Kagakusha Tsushin* (Scientists’ Correspondences)” pages of the *JJS*, We can understand the activities of branches other than the Tokyo branch.

We have problems to be solved. Namely, whether to continue or not, and what to take care of while we are busy. With two or more people, we can start anytime, anywhere, in any way. For me, Book Review Meetings are a place for training for democratic competence.

(SATO Kazuhiro, Tokyo Branch)

<b>Activities (13) <i>JJS</i> Vol.58, No.4 April (2023), p.63 (231)</b>
---

***Research exchange meeting on the war in Ukraine and Russian constitutionalism at Mie Branch***

The Mie Branch held a research exchange meeting on December 17, 2022<sup>11</sup>, and NAKAYAMA Ken (part-time lecturer at Mie University) made a report on “Russian Constitutionalism and the Phases of the Ukrainian War.”

According to the report, even before Russia started its War of aggression against Ukraine on February 24, 2022, the constitutional democratic principles of the current Constitution, which was enacted in 1993 after the collapse of the Soviet Union, had already retreated within Russia, and President Putin had touched on the progress of individual dictatorship. NAKAYAMA cited the 2012 presidential election and the 2020 Constitutional amendment as turning points. In the former, public opinion reacted against the fact that the interpretation of the Constitution that “the same person cannot serve more than two consecutive terms” was distorted, and Putin was allowed to be “re-elected” for a

---

<sup>11</sup> Meeting material is downloadable from the JSA Mie’s website:  
<https://onedrive.live.com/?authkey=%21AKoHScmWCgo1cME&id=D2B06BE2CD5AE83C%215609&cid=D2B06BE2CD5AE83C&parId=root&parQt=sharedby&o=OneUp>



third term with President Medvedev in between. It developed into a large-scale anti-government movement in urban areas. The latter, contrary to the official explanation that it was only a partial revision of the governing structure, it included essential Constitutional Revisions such as a deviation from liberal democratic principles and an emphasis on national identity. It was pointed out that the president's term of office, which was limited to “a total of two terms”, also included a “reset clause,” and that made the term of office of the current and previous presidents irrelevant. And NAKAYAMA said, as a result, it contributed to strengthening the power base of President Putin.

Lastly, NAKAYAMA said, “from this point of view, it is worth listening to the point by legal philosopher INOUE Tatsuo, who sees the Ukrainian War as the cause of the self-preservation of political power within Russia.” NAKAYAMA said that we must keep a calm eye on how this will transform and how the reconsideration of global constitutionalism will unfold in the future.

(NAKAYAMA Ken, Mie Branch)

<p><b><i>JSA Executive Committee’s decision “We protest against the amendment of the Act on the Science Council of Japan and demand a Self-Reformation of the Government” on January 31, 2023</i></b></p>
---

In its cabinet meeting on December 6, 2022, the Japanese government decided “the orientation of the status of the Science Council of Japan” and confirmed its intention to amend the Act on the Science Council of Japan (Act No. 121 of July 10, 1948), on the basis of (1) the decision about concerns to be tackled with mainly, (2) the decision about the properties for members, (3) the third parties’ commitment in member selection process and (4) the reinforcement of the outside evaluation committee. This amendment draft would be submitted to the present ordinary Diet session<sup>12</sup>.

We, the executive committee of the JSA, require the government to give up an “amendment” plan of the Act on the Science Council of Japan. Furthermore, we think the government must dare a self-reformation in order to realize the intention of the Act on the Science Council of Japan which assures the independent status of the Science Council of Japan (SCJ). Article 2 of this act declares that “the Science Council of Japan, as the organization representing the scientists of our country towards internal as well as external society, has the purpose of promoting and enhancing science and ensuring science is reflected in and permeated into administration, industries and people's lives.”

As a national organization authorized by the Act on the Science Council of Japan, the SCJ was established in January, 1949, “standing upon the assurance that science is the foundation of a cultured nation, and under the entire consensus of the scientists, with the missions of contributing to the

---

<sup>12</sup> On April 20, 2023, KISHIDA administration decided not to submit this draft to the present Diet session.

peaceful reconstruction of our country, and the welfare of human society as well as to academic progress in coordination with global academic communities” (preamble). According to this act, “the Science Council of Japan is under the jurisdiction of the Prime Minister” (Article 1 (2)) and “independently performs the following duties (1) to deliberate important issues concerning science and help implement such issues and (2) to promote coordination among scientific studies in order to enhance its efficiency” (Article 3). SCJ’s missions should not be distorted by any short-sighted political and economic interferences. The amendment draft wants to make the SCJ acquiescent to administrative and industrial intentions. The JSA will never overlook such an evil attempt.

As the SCJ Act was enacted in 1948, MORITO Tatsuo, the Minister of Education at that time, represented the government and described the purpose of the SCJ in his explanation-speech of this act: “It is not until the national representative organization based on the consensus of scientists will be established that the science-based reconstruction of our country and the contribution to world culture will be expected” and therefore “the SCJ as an independent organization of scientists must be founded.” He said in the second educational committee of the House of Councilors on June 15, 1948, and in the second educational committee of the House of Representatives on June 19, 1948, that “the SCJ Act defines the duties and authorities confirming that the SCJ has a character as a governmental institute for consultation and deliberation on the one hand but acts on the principle of scientists’ autonomy and independence on the other hand”. To the educational committee of the House of Representatives in which a question “what does it mean with the word ‘independently’” was posed, a governmental commissioner answered: “The SCJ is under the jurisdiction of the Prime Minister. Concerning about academic matters, however, we are of the opinion that the SCJ should freely and independently carry out its duties without any interventions from related ministries.”<sup>13</sup> It is clear that the government at that time has understood correctly that the assured independence from the government is a precondition with which the SCJ can perform in the initially expected form. Today, the government aims to impose administrative and industrial intentions on the deliberation process and organizational operation of the SCJ. It means the violation of the philosophy of the SCJ Act which regards the SCJ as a national organization. We never allow it.

Article 4 of the SCJ Act stipulates that “the government may consult with the Science Council of Japan concerning the following issues: (1) Subsidizing research and tests etc. concerning science and budgeting and its distribution of the subsidies, grants etc. funded by government for the purpose of the promotion of science, (2) A policy for preparing a budget concerning research institutes, laboratories and expenditures etc. for sponsored research under government control, (3) An important policy necessary to be specially examined by expert scientists, and (4) Other issues as appropriate to be consulted with the Science Council of Japan.” In the discussion of the second educational committee of the House of Representatives on June 30, 1948, a question was posed: “Although the

---

<sup>13</sup> <https://kokkai.ndl.go.jp/#/detail?minId=100205077X01219480619&current=510>

SCJ is supposed to be an independent organization, Article 4 describes that the government MAY consult with. Why not MUST?” The government begged understanding with an answer to it: “Practically, we will surely consult with the SCJ about academic matters.”<sup>14</sup> It is obvious that the government has had a principle to respect the SCJ’s consultation reports in the cases when the government wants to decide policies concerning sciences.

According to Article 5, the SCJ may recommend to the government. Since 1991, the SCJ has published four recommendations, 12 answers to requested discussions and 11 requests as well as numerous suggestions, reports and comments of president. It has made efforts to enlarge human welfare using the academic research results by scientists in our country. However, the government made only three consultations to the SCJ during the period when many important science policies were decided. It means that the government has avoided policy-making based on scientists’ findings in the way the SCJ Act demands. This attitude should be repented through a self-reformation of the government.

#### *Events and Statements*

On February 4, 2023, the JSA published a statement declaring that the JSA will support the SCJ’s statement on December 21, 2022, “We require to reconsider the Cabinet Office’s ‘The Orientation concerning about the appropriate role of the Science Council of Japan’ on December 6, 2022”<sup>15</sup> (<https://jsa.gr.jp/d/statement/20230204scj>).

#### *What’s New*

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

#### *About Us*

---

<sup>14</sup> <https://kokkai.ndl.go.jp/#/detail?minId=100205077X02119480630&current=284>

<sup>15</sup> <https://www.scj.go.jp/ja/info/kohyo/pdf/kohyo-25-s186.pdf>

“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](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.

**THE BULLETIN OF JSA** is edited and published by

THE JAPAN SCIENTISTS’ ASSOCIATION

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

Fax: +81-3-3813-2363 <https://jsa.gr.jp> <https://jsa.gr.jp/intl/>

E-mail: [mail@jsa.gr.jp](mailto:mail@jsa.gr.jp)

Editorial Board members:

KIDO Eiichi, MAEDA Sadataka, MIYAKE Yoshimi, NISHIOKA Keiji, OHMURA Yoshiaki,  
ONO Hajime (Chief), and YAMAMOTO Fujio

If you want to join in our slack, please send an e-mail to [hajime@cc.kogakuin.ac.jp](mailto:hajime@cc.kogakuin.ac.jp).