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(Photo: by Hajime Ono, in Peace Memorial Park Okinawa, Mabuni, Itoman-city)

During the World War II, Okinawa residents suffered ground combat continued until June 23, 1945.

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A Summary of the JSA's 54th Annual Congress

On May 27 and June 11, the 54th annual congress of the Japan Scientists' Association (JSA) was held online. Among 53 branch-elected representatives (quorum: 55), 48 representatives participated on the first day, and 47 on the second day. Other participants consisted of 3 executive committee members, 13 secretary members, and 8 observers. There were only 9 female participants (representative/executive), even less than those of last year. We should work harder in order to promote female participation. Executive OTAKE Midori's opening speech started the conference.

The annual congress approved the 58th term's action/finance reports and the 59th term's action/budget policies. For the purpose of clarifying executive committee's structure and rearrangement of complicated regulations, amendment drafts of JSA's general provision and executive committee rule were submitted, and then approved by the annual congress. Congress decision and finance report will be announced to each JSA member on a paper attached to the August issue of the *Journal of Japanese Scientists (JJS)*.

The JSA's department of academic institutes had submitted the draft of "The JSA requires the government to take back the admission refusal of 6 members of the Science Council of Japan (SCJ) immediately and to give up the intention for SCJ's reorganization." The annual congress adopted it finally after the discussion procedure at the draft commission meeting.

The JSA, which aims to encourage the democratic and independent development of Japanese sciences and the nationwide promotion of its findings, is one of the SCJ's cooperative organizations. With the decision of the annual congress, we reconfirmed our innate policy to support the SCJ in the field of academic researches. This decision has another implication: Political intervention to academic researches means the denial of free forming and expressing civil opinions. Restriction of academic freedom would turn science and technology into a servant of warfare state, and therefore we must continuously pay attention to SCJ reorganization by KISHIDA administration. It is the reason why our annual congress insists that the government should stop submitting its amendment draft of the SCJ Act to the Diet.

At the end of the annual congress, 27 members of the 59th term's executive committee and 2 audit members were elected. Secretary candidates of national organization had been recommended by the official recommendation working group under the jurisdiction of the 58th term's executive committee and been authorized by the executive committee. Some executive committee candidates were recommended in JSA districts. The annual congress admitted the amendment for 27 quorum of the executive committee and approve all candidates. The first meeting of the executive committee held during the intermission of the annual congress decided its personal formation: SHIDA Yoko, TATEISHI Masaaki and YAMAMOTO Fujio are executives; TAKEUCHI Satoshi is the general secretary; ISHII Kiyoshi, SASAKURA Mariko, SHIINA Takahiko, HATA Akio, MIKI Atsuro and YAMASAKI Makoto are assistant general secretaries; and NAGANO Yatsuhisa is the chief editor of

the *JJS*.

After the resumption of the annual congress, General Secretary TAKEUCHI gave a speech, representing the newly designated secretaries, while Executive YAMAMOTO gave a closing message.

Considering influences of COVID-19, the 54th annual congress was also held online. We have kept this style since the 51st annual congress. In spite of several difficulties, we could complete the annual congress thanks to all your cooperation.

In the discussion of the annual congress, some representatives said “it seems as if we were now in the very moment of the third reactionary offensive in the post-war period.” There was an opinion which urged to tackle with the problem related to the security clearance aiming at trading management: Learning activities for foreign students in universities are obliged to be “self” restricted although academic education should be essentially control-free and public. We discussed also the cases of lawsuit actions against the layoff of part-time lecturers as well as educational policies of universities which favour to employ part-time lecturers. In the next term, the initiative of “JSA advanced program for interdisciplinary researches and civil sciences” (renamed from “virtual graduate school”) will be carried out in practice. Someone showed expectation to it. Corresponding to the reports on several local events of the JSA, publication of branch-news, and on the 24th *SOGAKU* (Comprehensive Scientific Study Convention), we reached a common recognition that it is important to connect with people using concrete opportunities. It was also reported that: Even in a tendency of membership stagnation, a public meeting on *hikikomori*-issue led to an enlargement of 4 new members; activities fit to the interests of graduate-school students reinforced relationship with non-member participants; We must think about how to contact with non-member participants of online events; and so on. The *JJS* is the most important item for membership enlargement. Someone said leaders committee should concretize enlargement target and discuss about it continuously. (Detailed protocol is published on the membership pages of JSA-website)

(SASAKURA Mariko, newly designated general and finance chief)

Activities (1) <i>JJS</i> Vol.58, No.5 May (2023), p.61 (293)
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The JSA Peace Research Committee has started a series of study sessions: The first is “a thorough criticism of the 2023 military budget proposal and the three new security documents: Major movement against KISHIDA’s military expansion”

With the security legislation of 2015, Japan’s government took steps to exercise the right of collective self-defense, which had been stated unconstitutional. After the enactment of this law to enter the war with the United States, the integration of the headquarters functions of Japan Self-Defense

Forces and the United States Military Forces, the regularization of joint training and exercises, the construction of new bases and new units have been promoted.

Then, in 2022, due to Russia's invasion of Ukraine and the threat of China and North Korea, the government made a cabinet decision on three security documents; National Security Strategy, National Defense Strategy and Defense Build-up Plan, and drafted a budget for a large-scale military expansion. The three security documents "will dramatically transform Japan's national security policy after the end of WWII", and state that "Japan will implement strategic approaches to achieve its national security objectives, harnessing its comprehensive national power as an integrated and efficient means." In addition to diplomatic and defense capabilities, the economic, technological and intelligence capabilities are also included, which is literally a total mobilization system.

The government and ruling parties are trying to make Japan a military state that will actually participate in the US war. The opponent that Japan confronts with the "counterstrike capabilities" such as long-range missiles is a missile powerhouse with nuclear weapons. What will this massive military expansion of Japan bring about?

In response to this tense situation, the JSA Peace Issues Research Committee and the Okinawa Branch have started a series of remote learning sessions with the cooperation of the Japan Peace Committee Okinawa Branch. As the first meeting, on January 28, they had TOMIZUKA Akira (Nagasaki Univ.), a committee member, talk about the three new security documents and the Great Arms Expansion Plan.

The three documents describe the world as a dichotomy between states that share "universal values" and those that do not, and seek to divide the international community, and regard China, North Korea and Russia as virtual enemies. Therefore, the government will drastically strengthen military power and try to respond with diplomacy backed by it. There is an overemphasis on deterrence and intimidation through military force.

The key to this is the "counterstrike capabilities." It will be obtained at the cost of traditional self-defense capabilities for an amphibious invasion, that is, minimizing homeland defense. Moreover, it does not assume a retaliatory attack by the enemy country. Also, it is linked to the exercise of the right of collective self-defense, which is unconstitutional but covered up. Ultimately, the three security documents are intended to deepen military integration with the United States.

Furthermore, it will be pursued that military cooperation and arms exports within the military block called "like-minded countries", weapons development and production by fostering practical cooperation among the Government, business community and academia in the security field and drive forward information sharing between the public and private sectors and finally the establishment of a

national mobilization system.

For this militarization, the defense budget will be raised to 2 percent of GDP, 43.5 trillion yen will be spent over the next five years, and government bonds and tax increases are planned for military spending.

According to the National Defense Strategy, threats manifest themselves through the combination of capabilities and intentions. If that is the case, what Japan should do is eliminate the “will to attack” and reduce the armaments of China and North Korea through diplomacy that promotes confidence-building. Abandoning Article 9 of the Constitution, which denies the “will and capabilities to attack”, and turning Japan into a militarized state is nothing less than an act by which Japan itself becomes a threat to the region and invites war.

(KAMEYAMA Norikazu, Ryukyu University)

Activities (2) <i>JJS</i> Vol.58, No.5 May (2023), p.62 (294)
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Activities of Hachinohe sub-branch in Aomori branch

The Hachinohe sub-branch of Aomori branch has held an annual public learning lecture so far, but due to the corona crisis, we have had to postpone and cancel the planned lecture twice in 2021.

On September 24, 2022, the third honesty held a lecture entitled “Nature of the Tanesashi Coast Connecting to the Future” (lecturer: TAKAHASHI Akira, Director of the Kita-Ou Nature Research Institute) in a wide meeting room with enough space for 36 people. For many years, he has been working on biodiversity and environmental conservation issues in the Tanesashi Coast, which is a part of the Sanriku *Fukko* (Reconstruction) National Park¹ and a place of pride for Hachinohe citizens. The participants made comments such as, “It made me think about protection and conservation”, “I learned a lot for the first time”, and “It exceeded my expectations.” The lecture was very well received.

In addition, the Hachinohe sub-branch holds mini-study meetings about four times a year, based on topics offered by members. After the study session, we hold a get-together party under the pretext of cherry-blossom viewing or a New Year Party, so some people seem to be looking forward to this.

Unfortunately, due to the corona crisis, we had to cancel the fieldwork that we usually do every year, but in October 2022, we conducted a one-day cruise tour to see the Kitayamazaki Cliffs of the

¹ In 2013, for the purpose of memorization of reconstruction experiences after the East-Japan Earthquake in 2011, the area of Sanriku Coast including current Rikuchu Coast National Park was designated as the Sanriku *Fukko* (Reconstruction) National Park.

Sanriku Coast in Iwate Prefecture from the sea.

There are some members who withdraw due to old age, but we are carrying out branch activities with the motto of being happy and healthy in order to welcome new members by casually calling out to them.



(IKEDA Hitomi)

Activities (3) <i>JJS</i> Vol.58, No.5 May (2023), p.62 (294)
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An emergency study meeting held against the large-scale military expansion

An online emergency study meeting hosted by the JSA Tokyo branch was held on February 9, with 14 participants. The lecturer was IGARAH I Hitoshi, Professor Emeritus of Hosei University, and the title of his lecture was “Don’t allow the destruction of the people’s lives by large military expansion and large tax increases.”

The main contents of the lecture are as follows; (1) Taking advantage of Russia’s aggression against Ukraine, a sense of crisis is fueled by lies and false public opinion manipulation. In Japan, a large-scale military expansion of 2 percent of GDP is about to be carried out under the scheming of constitutional amendment and constitutional destruction. “Shoot first but counterattack, become a spear but defend exclusively” is the ultimate in unreasonableness. A two-front operation is necessary to prevent constitutional revision proposals and a large-scale military expansion.

(2) The American and Japanese ruling classes assume that both of Taiwan emergency and North Korea’s missile attack are realistic. However, the United States, which has consistently been a hegemon since World War II, is a society ruled by the military-industrial complex, and the US ruling class always seeks “a taste of the honey of war” somewhere in the world, and has created a “continuation of moderate tension.” The US ruling class is now trying to deprive Japan of its pacifist constitution and resource for peace, which has achieved economic growth because it has never fought

a war. We must not allow the Japanese government to subjugate itself slavishly to the war-minded US establishment any longer.

(3) The greatest lesson from what is happening in Ukraine is that in modern warfare, where attacks by missiles and drones have become commonplace, there is no distinction between the front line and the back line, and both parties are bound to lose. NATO failed diplomacy and the promotion of military expansion and NATO membership were used as a pretext for the invasion. The basic idea of renouncing the “threat of force” in Article 9 is the general theory and the royal road to overcoming the division and confrontation caused by blocs.

During the question-and-answer session, IGARASHI commented “The Taiwan contingency theory is ‘fantastic militarism’, and the Chinese government is pursuing the possibility of a Kuomintang government. In order to prevent war in Asia, the Japanese government now is the time to return to the spirit of Article 9 and make maximum efforts in diplomatic negotiations.”

(YONEDA Mitsugu, Tokyo Branch)

Activities (4) <i>JJS</i> Vol.58, No.5 May (2023), p.63 (295)
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The situation of “the group of Das Kapital” in the Hokkaido Branch

The Hokkaido branch has four research groups, but here I introduce the group on Karl Marx’s *Das Kapital* (*The Capital*).

This group was established in March 2016 and basically holds regular meetings once a month (by February 2023 67 times). I would like to quote a part of the article that Member Y wrote for the “Hokkaido Branch News” recently and show a part of the activity of this group:

When students or graduate students write a paper, they are always strongly instructed to write “clearly” so that they are “not misunderstood.” For a researcher of the natural sciences who is used to reading such texts written on the premise that they can be understood easily, it is surprising to hear that advisors at the meeting of *Das Kapital* often comment “the interpretation of this part is still controversial.” We are now reading the second volume of the latest translation. It seems likely that we will read it while comparing it with the German version, saying “this translation is strange.”

In addition to the fact that some parts of the original text are still subject to debate, the difficulty of Japanese translation is another hurdle to get over for us non-experts in order to understand the content. So I decided to put the English version by the side. With this, it is often possible to understand

considerably even if I do not know what it means in Japanese.

Sometimes an advisor comments, “This point of view is a problem right now.” The problems that existed in the world 150 years ago when *Das Kapital* was written remain unsolved, and the situation is even worse than at that time. I realize the importance of grasping the essence of the problem without being confused by commonplace opinion in the information-oriented society.
(EMI Seijiro, Branch Office Deputy Director)

Activities (5) <i>JJS</i> Vol.58, No.5 May (2023), p.63 (295)
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JSAO Spring Seminar “Exploring Extreme Environments: How Cells Respond to Environmental Changes?”

At the beginning of every year, the JSA Osaka branch organizes an annual New Year Café as an exchange meeting for members. It was held online this year as a “JSAO spring seminar” on February 11. The lecturer was GALIPON Josephine (Specially Appointed Lecturer, Institute for Advanced Biosciences (IAB)², Keio University, Doctor of Science). GALIPON, who is based in Tsuruoka (Yamagata Prefecture) and is engaged in a wide range of research, introduced her research on 3D printers and shark skin this time.

A 3D printer can “print” a solid model based on various three-dimensional data. As examples, she introduced us 3D-printed models of “endoplasmic reticulum” in plant cells and “tardigrades”, microscopic creatures. Endoplasmic reticulum is depicted in biology textbooks. But we could understand very clearly that endoplasmic reticulum based on the 3D data of real cells has three-dimensional networks that follow the shape of the cell and all of them are connected. GALIPON herself was surprised that the structures that she thought she knew from a textbook changed her perception when she saw them in 3D. The use of a 3D printer, which allows anyone to see and touch stereoscopic images of the microscopic world, is extremely attractive and persuasive.

The second half of her lecture was about “shark skin” research by using 3D printers. In relation to shark skin, she spoke first of all about the topic of swimsuit for the swimming race, and then the differences in the shape of actual shark skin (scales) and the experiment on the effects of 3D printed scale models on water flow. It was exciting to hear that GALIPON herself enjoyed the process. She said she continued researching this theme. It was indicated that participants received fresh stimulation

² <https://www.iab.keio.ac.jp>

from her lecture.

(FUTAKI Sugiko, Osaka Branch)

Activities (6) JJS Vol.58, No.6 June (2023), p.61 (357)
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*Activity report of “Spring School 2023” sponsored by Tokyo branch graduate student secretary:
Creating a place of research and “love” for graduate students*

On March 15, 2023, “Spring School 2023” was held as a hybrid of face-to-face and online at the *San-Tama* Labor Hall in Tachikawa, hosted by the graduate student secretary of the JSA Tokyo branch. The contents are a report on the master thesis, a report on the experience of the doctoral thesis, and an exchange meeting after the project. A total of 12 people, including 2 non-members, participated, and it was a good opportunity for all to ask questions and exchange opinions, and to think about the methods and significance of their respective research.

The first speaker is KABAHARA Mayumi, who completed her master degree at Hitotsubashi University. It was very interesting, including KABAHARA conducted research on the urban areas and hot spring areas of Yamanashi Prefecture, using materials related to evacuation, newspapers, etc., as well as valuable meeting minutes held by the Hakone *Onsen Ryokan* Hotel Cooperative Association. KABAHARA points out that inns accounted for the majority of evacuees for school children, and that food shortages, the resulting malnutrition, and the spread of disease were serious problems, which had not been sufficiently clarified until now. We clarified the reality of “*jugo*.” There was a *ryokan* that was assigned the role of “*jugo*” as a sanatorium for the sick and wounded of the war. It was one of the factors that led to their acceptance.

The second speaker was UMEGAKI Midori, who completed a doctoral course at Hitotsubashi University. She reported on the difficulties and preparations.

UMEGAKI said that when she was a master student, she did not fully understand the purpose of going to graduate school and the significance of her research. For this reason, she reflected on the importance of the questions “Why did you go on to graduate school?” and “What is the meaning of research?” She expressed her repentance by describing the state of going on to graduate school as a “curse.” For UMEGAKI in the past, it is said that the existence of someone who waited until she answered after asking “What and why do you want to do?” was important. By doing this, the position of research was clarified, and she was able to face research and herself (people who live). Lastly, based

on her own experience, UMEGAKI emphasizes the importance of having “affection” for the space and people you study, in other words, to have a relationship through interaction rather than indifference, and first, to live together. She stressed the importance of acknowledging that.

Non-member participants commented, “I felt that the opportunity to interact with graduate students and discuss research is very important” and “I was surprised that there was such a good atmosphere at the seminar.” It was truly an event with “love.”

(MORIYAMA Hikaru, Tokyo Branch)

Activities (7) JJS Vol.58, No.6 June (2023), p.62 (358)
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Study Lecture Meeting Co-hosted with 'Article 9 Association - Tsu' on “Thinking about a Path out of the Climate Crisis, starting from the local community

On March 4, JSA Mie-branch co-hosted with the 'Article 9 Association - Tsu' a seminar entitled “Breaking the Climate Crisis, Considering the Path from the Local Community: How to Face the Giant Re-energy Development that Will Cut Through the Forest,” with TAKAYAMA Susumu, Mie Branch Representative Secretary, as the lecturer.

To begin, TAKAYAMA said, “I would like to focus on how we should think about the huge renewable energy development that cuts through forests, which is happening frequently in Mie Prefecture.” He also introduced and discussed the “Kyogamine Wind Farm” and the “Matsusaka-Hachisu Wind Farm” in Tsu City, where the installation of wind power generation facilities has become an issue, saying, “I would like to focus on how we should think about the huge renewable energy development that cuts through forests, which is also happening frequently in Mie Prefecture.

In the former case, the project operator submitted a “Primary Environmental Impact Consideration”, the first stage of the environmental assessment, in May 2018, which was followed by a further second stage, the “Assessment Methodology Statement” process. In both phases, the Project received harsh comments from the Mie Prefectural Governor, the Minister of Environment, the Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry, and civil society. The plan has now been modified after research and is currently in the second half of the third phase, the “Draft EIS phase.” In particular, the local residents' council campaigned against the installation of wind power generation facilities at the Matsusaka-Hachisu Wind Farm. The project has had a “petition against construction” adopted by the Matsusaka municipal assembly.

TAKAYAMA stated the following. “Germany, Austria, Denmark, and other countries have tried to combine the protection of local primary industries with the creation of renewable energy from local sources.” “And as ‘overdevelopment by urban capital will nip in the bud the potential of areas that can develop based on their natural resources. Japan's system, which allows for arbitrary plans by developers at the beginning of the Environmental Assessment Process, is flawed, and we need to learn from zoning systems overseas, where the national and local governments cooperate to determine zones where renewable energy is prohibited.” And, “We should definitely support stopping the latter plan, which has one of the highest natural degrees in Japan.”

(MAEDA Sadataka, Mie branch)

Activities (8) JJS Vol.58, No.6 June (2023), p.62 (358)
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Nuclear Power Plant Restart and Newly Constructing, “Do You really approve?”, Global Warming, “Is It True?” 3.11 and Global Warming: Report on the 6th JSA Fukuoka Dialogue between Citizens and Scientists

The JSA Fukuoka branch held an online dialogue meeting on Sunday, March 12th with the above theme. Until now, citizens and scientists have chosen themes that they would like to think about together from time to time. And we have held dialogues between citizens and scientists. But in many cases, the “dialogue” was not realized because it took the form of a lecture and a question-and-answer session.

So, this time, we decided to tackle “Dialogue” on the theme of “3.11”, because, we had concerned that the urgent task for our future of becoming nuclear power free and decarbonized might be set back by the emergence of a global energy crisis following Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Especially, I made an effort this time, that we emphasized the Q&A format and called on citizens and members to participate.

This time around, we also called on civic groups and others around us to join in the effort. However, the actual number of participants was a little sad, as it did not reach 30. Even so, during the actual event, we started the meeting by raising questions about the theme and asking respondents to answer them, and tried to make the meeting an interactive exchange of opinions in which it was easy to raise questions. As a result, candid questions and opinions were raised, and the gathering became a “dialogue” of sorts. For example, we received comments from people who wanted to hear scientific

judgments related to skepticism and other popular beliefs about global warming in the face of a variety of information. Some asked questions about books critical of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) simulations, while others wanted to know more about the benefits of solar water heaters in their daily lives and how they could be evaluated. In response to these questions, ITO, who has been studying meteorology, and OKAMOTO, who has been studying nuclear physics, gave detailed answers, and there was also an exchange of opinions among the participants. It was a more interactive “citizen-scientist dialogue” than previous gatherings.

(KOBAYAKAWA Yoshihisa)

Activities (9) <i>JJS</i> Vol.58, No.6 June (2023), p.63 (359)

The 15th Aichi Branch Academic Lecture Held

Titled “Problems with Linear Shinkansen”

On February 12, 2023 (Sunday), the above lecture was held at the main venue of Aichi *Minshu Kaikan*, together with the use of internet, with a total of over 30 participants (sponsored by Hotbooks Shin-Sakae). The lecturer was NAKAGAWA Takeo (Professor Emeritus, Chukyo University, Public Health). NAKAGAWA was involved in the Nagoya *Shinkansen* noise pollution lawsuit (since 1974, settled in 1986) when he was a young researcher.

Using a total of 52 slides, the lecture began with an overview of the Linear *Shinkansen* Project and the introduction of the “Statement Calling for Withdrawal and Cancellation of the Linear Chuo *Shinkansen* Project” issued by JSA on July 15, 2014³. Subsequently, the administrative lawsuit “Stop Linear!” was introduced. In it, he analyzed from a critical point of view the hurdle of eligibility for plaintiffs (532 out of 782 were disqualified as plaintiffs), violating the Nationwide *Shinkansen* Railway Development Law, the Railway Business Law, and the Environmental Impact Assessment Law. Explaining the obviousness of this, the destruction of the natural environment and ecosystem, including the destruction of groundwater veins, and the disposal of excavated surplus soil (86 percent of the 286 km of the entire line is tunnels) have not been determined, and he pointed out that there is also the risk of secondary disasters.

Regarding JR Central’s environmental impact assessment, NAKAGAWA said: “There were many arguments whether the project is necessary or not, and it is pointed out that there was no

³ <https://jsa.gr.jp/03statement/20140715.pdf>

comparison between multiple proposals, but no opinion was expressed, and the procedure proceeded with the project plan undecided. There are many problems, such as ignoring even the opinion of the governor that should be taken into account.” JR Tokai should take seriously the weight of NAKAGAWA’s words. Many questions were asked. There is much to be learned from the linear special feature in the November issue of the *JJS*⁴.

(MATSUDA Masahisa, Aichi branch)

Activities (10) <i>JJS</i> Vol.58, No.6 June (2023), p.63 (359)
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163rd Osaka Kitatenma Science Cafe “Thorough Debate Climate Crisis: What Should Be Done Now” February 25, 2023 Guest: UTAGAWA Manabu (Dr., National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology)

Extream weather is occurring frequently in Japan as well. Recently, fossil fuel prices have doubled or tripled, and electricity bills have risen sharply. KISHIDSA Cabinet announced the restart of nuclear power plants. Under such circumstances, the Science Cafe was held. UTAGAWA's lecture was as follows.

According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), in order to keep the temperature rise below 1.5°C, it is necessary to reduce global CO₂ emissions to about half of the 2019 level by 2030, and to reduce emissions in Japan, which emits a large amount, by more than 70 percent. Denmark and the UK have reduced their CO₂ emissions by 45 percent between 1991 and 2021, while Japan has only reduced them by 10 percent. The main reason is that the rate of increase in renewable energy in Japan is small. Japan relies on imports for fossil fuels, so the cost of thermal power generation has risen due to soaring fossil fuel costs, and solar and wind power generation costs have become cheaper. It is possible with current technology to advance renewable energy and energy saving, and by advancing it, energy costs will decrease. What is important is that not only the government but also local governments take the lead in formulating and implementing specific plans for reducing CO₂ emissions. Therefore, it is necessary to create a system that returns profits to local communities.

Detailed energy-saving technologies by source type were introduced. Energy consumption in factories can be reduced by insulation, reuse of waste heat, conversion to electric power, and conversion to energy-saving equipment. It is possible to reduce energy consumption by more than 70

⁴ <https://jsa.gr.jp/04pub/0401jjs/2022contents.html>

percent by installing heat insulation and energy-saving equipment in the office. Heating energy can be reduced by more than 60 percent if a home is highly insulated. Gasoline vehicles have an exhaust heat loss of 80 percent or more, so switching to an electric vehicle (EV) will reduce that amount. Solar Sharing, which contributes to rural development, is more effective than mega solar that cuts down forests. Advanced case studies were also introduced on how local governments should proceed with CO₂ emission reduction plans that are compatible with environmental protection.

(KONO Hitoshi, JSA-ACT⁵)

Activities (11) <i>JJS</i> Vol.58, No.7 July (2023), p.61 (421)
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The 7th Corona Issue study series session sponsored by the Tokyo Branch “Difficulties faced by women in terms of supporting single mothers during the COVID-19 crisis”

On March 16, 2023, the 7th Corona Issue Study series session was held online with 15 participants. The lecturer on the above mentioned theme was AKAISHI Chieko, the chair of Single Mothers Forum, a NPO for supporting single-parent households.

AKAISHI first introduced her NPO and their agenda, then explained the current situation of single-parent households. She described changes caused by COVID-19. She also introduced “joint custody”, a current issue in Japan. She talked about the changes caused by COVID-19, based on the results of a survey conducted by the Single Mother Research Project, of which AKAISHI is also a member.

According to the survey, single mothers who had been engaged in service-sector jobs (tourism, medical care), sales jobs, and production process jobs lost their job because of the pandemic. It was also found that many of these households had to compensate the loss of income by saving their food expense. The data shows that 30.6 percent of single-parent households in Tokyo and 41.6 percent outside of Tokyo have found themselves not being able to buy their rice once in a while. The mothers sometimes had to skip eating by giving food only to their children.

Some mothers who received the government support loan for single mother household during the pandemic had to return the loan without getting any better result from the loan. The lecturer reported the voices from a single-parent household who had no choice but living in a low-cost private apartment. The parent is worried of the poor condition of the apartment which has molds and which

⁵ <https://act.jsa.gr.jp>

might affect her children's health condition.

After the presentation, there were questions from the audience, such as, "I thought that companies employing single mothers are also responsible for the poor treatment of single mothers, but are you making any efforts of making proposals to their employers so that they will have specific considerations for single-mothers?", "Can't the government subsidy the child support?"

Answering to the questions, the lecturer pointed out that raising the minimum wage is important as the key factor for improving the working conditions of single mothers, by giving examples of Sweden and France, where the government has a system to pay child support upfront. In the United States and the United Kingdom child support is deducted from the father's salary, a system introduced to prevent fathers from escaping from child support payment.

Through this study group, it became clear that the most severe part of Japan's labor and life problems is observed in single-parent households, which are placed in a vulnerable position. Currently, the government is proposing measures such as 'reskilling' during childcare leave, with "countermeasures against the declining birthrate of a different dimension" as their priority, but what is needed is to take the most appropriate measures to improve the situation of the most underprivileged people. Doing so will guarantee the minimum living standards of people in all other household types, and should raise the overall standard.

(YOSHIMURA Sakura, Chuo Branch)

Activities (12) JJS Vol.58, No.7 July (2023), p.62 (422)

Kyoto Branch's Review Meeting Journal of Japanese Scientists (JJS), special issue about "Gender Equality and Peace from the Psychological View"

We will introduce here the gender section of the Psychological Science Research Group, to which the authors belong, along with the authors' work so far, and the keywords of the content of the written request; I want to thank of IDA Katsunori, the guest editor for this special issue, for being with us. I was able to hear the explanation.

After briefly confirming the contents of the paper, IDA provided these comments: "The thesis was written about the author's resistance to gender discrimination. Its theme is "From war to everyday violence such as IPV and DV." It emphasizes the importance of narrative analysis as a research method, including listening technique and building a relationship with the narrator. As a point of discussion, it is useful for consideration of points such as the danger that the ethics of care supports wars (NUMATA), along the same lines as the modern paradox that the childcare leave system strengthens

the idea that women are responsible for taking care of infants.

From their respective standpoints and experiences, the participants said things like: “Even though 20 to 30 per cent of the students at science and engineering universities are female, only 5 per cent of the teachers are female.”; “What is a violence prevention education program?”(SHIOZAWA Miyoko’s “We after marriage and retirement”, Iwanami Shinsho, 1971); “I was raised by the experience of the Great East Japan Earthquake”; “I realized the meaning of interviewing evacuees in Kansai from the Great East Japan Earthquake and told them, and the importance of listening methods”; “I was impressed by the gender equality in Norway 30 years ago...Japan has not changed”; “How to communicate to children's and grandchildren's generations”; “Most of the protagonists in moral education teaching materials are men, and even double-income families take on housework and nursing care in [new gender role division] and the image of a mother who refuses to be promoted at work.” I would like to read more of each paper and continue the discussion.
(SHIMIZU Tamiko, Kyoto Branch)

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Commitments and methods of the Food Problem Research Committee: JSA Food Problem Research Committee

Due to restrictions on research group activities due to the coronavirus pandemic, it has become impossible to have frank and free discussions face-to-face. This study group also had to change its mode of operation, and there were times when meetings could not be held.

The more I learn about the current state of food and agriculture in Japan (the subject of this research group), the more I alarmed I become. In 1946, Japan's food self-sufficiency rate on a caloric basis was 88 per cent, but since 2000 it has leveled off at about 40 percent, and in recent years has fallen to around 38 percent. In the future, considering the domestic production of seeds and the situation in the foreign countries which produce seeds. The actual food self-sufficiency rate will become even lower, and the figures will become even worse. There is already a food crisis.

In addition to the quantity, food additives and genetically modified foods are increasing in Japan, and the quality, which should be stable, is also deteriorating significantly.

We held a face-to-face executive meeting of the study group in early summer 2022 to share this sense of crisis, and confirmed that we would do whatever we could to respond to social demands, even in the face of the coronavirus pandemic.

In 2022, we held a series of open research seminars, with these titles: "Thinking about Japanese food and agriculture five times in order to raise awareness about the current state of food and agriculture in Japan"; "The Recent Fertilizer Situation in Japan" (MANABE Kazuhiro); "Where are

the Seeds After the Abolition of the Seed Law?” (YOSHIMORI Hiroko); “The Current Situation and Problems of Food Labeling” (HARA Eiji); “Eating is one thing” (NISHIMURA Ichiro). A total of 75 people from all over the country participated, each committee member gave a valuable online report, and we were able to have a meaningful exchange of opinions.

Also, at the 24th *SOGAKU* (Comprehensive Scientific Study Convention), we planned the C-2 subcommittee “Thinking about Japanese food and agriculture” and discussed this with 32 participants from all over the country.

Although there are many difficulties, I would like this study group to continue to function without interruption, with the cooperation with the committee members.

(NISHIMURA Ichiro, Head of Research Committee)

Activities (14) <i>JJS</i> Vol.58, No.7 July (2023), p.63 (423)
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Participating in WATABE Asami's Lecture on “Working Hours and Personnel Labor Management of Regular White-Collar Workers”

On March 27, 2023, the 3rd “JSA Iwate Branch Members' Forum” (commonly known as chat meeting) was held online with the above title. Having long worked in labor administration, I was attracted to the topic and participated in it. The lecturer is a young researcher of “Critical Management”.

Compared to blue-collar workers, white-collar workers lag behind in terms of personnel and labor management, such as working hours. In 1980's the length of overtime work and the reduction of wages were disputed in connection of propelling deregulation. The contributory factors are long extra working hours and the low rate of paid leave taking. It was an era when Japanese businessmen who continued to fight 24 hours a day were touted, and I was one of those times, so that I continued to work hard for the organization.

WATABE Asami has been conducting research and studies on this issue from the perspective of labor-management relations. In order to solve the problem, it is necessary for labor unions to monitor corporate social responsibility and for labor and management to work together to reform work styles. She thinks that it should be done in this way, and describes good examples of the companies she investigated. It was reported that integrated efforts through consultation and cooperation between management and workers were effective, rather than top-down imposition of unilateral systems on workers.

In addition, she pointed out that there is a problem of labor productivity in the personnel management of white-collar workers. Labor productivity in Japan is said to be lower than in the developed countries of Europe and the United States. Partly because it is difficult to quantify the work results of white-collar workers, it seems that the cause is the low cost-awareness about labor. The question is how to avoid waste.

Finally, I agree with the report that it is hoped that this survey and research will lead to the improvement of workers' work-life balance and the appropriate execution of corporate social responsibility.

(NAKAYAMA Goo, Iwate Branch)

Activities (15) JJS Vol.58, No.7 July (2023), p.63 (423)

The Activity of Musashino Tsuiken Sub-Branch

We hold secretary meeting every other week and discuss editing plans of the monthly sub-branch bulletin “New Wind”, confirm readers, receipts and delivery, and also consider events and problems.

“New Wind” pursues friendliness on the basis of utilizing science for the welfare improvement of the human, objecting to the antisocial use of science (war in particular), and contributing to researchers’ and citizens’, demands and rights, and to the social democratic progress. We utilize Zoom (online meeting) to continue the activity under Corona Disaster and hold our meetings of investigation and let “New Wind” reflect it. We had six Zoom meetings in this year. We made the DVD of “New Wind” including from the first issue in January, 1967 to 500th one and we again made the new DVD (No.1 - No. 600) in April, 2022. Now it is on sale.

We, the group of conscious researchers, positively participate in *SOGAKU* (Comprehensive Scientific Study Convention) of JSA and Tokyo Scientific Symposium of Tokyo Branch for scientific creation and comprehensivization of science. Furthermore, we keep social dispatch in mind and deliver a statement about an important issue. We recently gave statement “We protest Russian invasion in Ukraine” (2022.2.25), and statement (2023.3.1) requiring “the withdrawal of the Government policy making Science Council of Japan bill worse and the security 3 documents aiming armament.” In addition, we gave our comment to “the Basic Policy (plan) for the GX realization.”

We participate in 5.3 Constitution Assembly with the upbound flag of the chapter every year, and also go hearing “Stop Llinear! Suit.” Our actions as these are important. We want to continue being active without carelessness while considering a health problem by the aging of the member.

(NAKANO Sadahiko, Board of Musashino Tsuiken Sub-Branch in JSA Tokyo Branch)

<i>Events and Statements</i>

On July 29, 2023, the scientists’ meeting related to the 2023 World Conference against A and H Bombs was held online. The main slogan was “Voices of Universities, Students and High-School Students against Military Expansion including Nuclear Weapons.” See:

<https://jsa.gr.jp/05event/2023/scienceforum2023circ0708.pdf>

What's New

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

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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