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THE JAPAN SCIENTISTS' ASSOCIATION (JSA)

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<HEADQUARTERS >

CONTAMINATED FOOD PROBLEMS DISCUSSED IN TOKYO

The research committee for pollution and environmental problems held a symposium on February 1, which was to clear the problems of fish and shellfish contaminated with hazardous materials. They discussed (1) international aspect for food contamination, (2) the present and future for fish and shellfish contaminated with dioxin and organic mercury, and (3) safety net for fish and shellfish in market, which was followed by the review and comments (Prof. Hata, Osaka City Univ.).

SYMPOSIUM "THE FUNDAMENTAL LAW OF EDUCATION AND EDUCATION PRACTICE" ORGANIZED IN KYOTO

The committee for the fundamental law of education and education practice organized the above symposium on February 10 at Kyoto Tachibana University, where they enthusiastically discussed the theme "How we should work out school management and practice educational program towards establishing real education for the nation", which was followed by a synthetic discussion for working out school and education.

2 • 11 GATHERINGS FOR DISAPPROVING "NATIONAL FOUNDATION DAY"

On February 11, "National Foundation Day", citizens held rallies in opposition to the Day across the country. In Tokyo, the organizing committee against the Day held a meeting entitled "Let us develop the contents of Article 9 of the Constitution to the world as well as Asia", where Prof. Hayashi (Kanto-gakuin Univ.) gave a seminar on the title "Thinking of the disapproval of textbook having pointed out Okinawan war – Okinawan war, military comfort women, and Japan's war responsibility", and Prof. Ozawa (Jikei Med.Col.) discussed Article 9 and its past, present and future, which was followed by comments and discussions from the floor.

The Osaka's organizing committee invited Prof. Yamaguchi (Ryukyu Univ.) to receive a lecture on the title "The report from Okinawa: How we should teach historical evidence to the future generations", which was followed by many presentations from the floor.

The Miyazaki branch held the 63rd gathering for thinking of the Constitution and peace under the theme "The worldwide viewpoint for the Constitution of Japan", where Mr. Ito (journalist) was invited to receive a lecture on the theme. His strong message was "Peace is not to be protected, but to be created by our everyday practice".

<NOTE> "National Foundation Day" was originally proclaimed under a different name (Kigen-setsu: Empire Day or Anniversary of Emperor Jinmu's Accession) in 1873 by the Imperial Meiji Government with the aim of deifying the Emperor. After WWII this day was repealed because it went against the constitutional principle that sovereignty rests with the people. The Liberal Democratic Party government, however, resurrected it in 1966.

RESEARCHERS' RIGHTS DISCUSSED IN TOKYO

On February 26, the committee for scientists' rights problems organized its business meeting, which was followed by a mini-symposium entitled "Thinking of researchers' rights, status and ethical code". They discussed the problems regarding to researchers' rights in higher education, and private enterprises as well as public ones.

<LOCAL ACTIVITIES IN JANUARY AND FEBRUARY >

1. OSAKA BRANCH

- 1) On January 19, the study group *Energy problems* held a meeting, where Dr. Hiroshige (Osaka branch) gave a seminar on environmental ethics (Introduction to environmental philosophy), and discussed pluralism and pragmatism.
- 2) The study group *Philosophy* organized a meeting on January 28, where Dr. Sugano (Osaka branch) reported on

Mr. Handa's philosophy of the game of *go* and his scientific view of nature. Mr. Handa (Dogen Handa) was not only a famous player of the game of *go*, but also a distinguished thinker.

3) In a meeting of the study group *Contemporary capitalism* on January 31, Dr. Ejiri (Osaka branch) discussed the problem "Bio-ethanol and the US's agriculture".

4) The Kansai-area's colloquium for scientific workers in private enterprises was organized on February 3, where Dr. Kitaguchi (Osaka branch) gave a lecture entitled "Thinking of global warming question".

5) The Kansai research meeting of peace question was held on February 10 in Kyoto City on the theme "The 70th anniversary of Nanjing massacre", where they discussed peace science and scientific understanding of Nanjing massacre and the nation's future.

2. OKINAWA BRANCH

A new-year research exchange meeting under the theme "University autonomy and staff's rights – To which and whom does university autonomy belong?" was organized on February 1 at Ryukyu University, where they enthusiastically discussed (1) how university autonomy should be, (2) what university should be, and especially (3) term-based employment system for university teachers. They were also interested in an educational evaluation system, which was analyzed in comparison with the England's case, which is quite famous for educational reform closely combined with evaluation.

3. TOKYO BRANCH

1) The 7th civic colloquium for thinking of intellectual property was organized on February 2, where they discussed (1) research and development in the multinational enterprises, and (2) intellectual property rights in Europe and the USA. In the meeting, participants enthusiastically discussed the intellectual property rights in so-called globalization.

2) The 36th Hachi-oji science forum was held on February 16, where they visited *Yasukuni Shrine* and *war museum* "Yushu-kan" in affiliation, which was guided by Dr. Tabata (Tokyo branch).

4. MIYAGI BRANCH

On February 9, the branch organized the 4th branch seminar in Sendai City, where Dr. Kawai (Miyagi branch) lectured on the title "Historical viewpoints concerning Article 9 of the Constitution of Japan", which was followed by view-exchange meeting.

JAPAN MUST KEEP BANNING ARMS EXPORTS

Based on the new-terrorism special measures law that the ruling bloc forcibly enacted in January (after the old special measures law expired last November, the Fukuda Cabinet extended the extraordinary Diet session twice and enacted the law by force), the Maritime Self-Defense Force's escort ship and supply ship left Japan on January 24 and 25 for the Indian Ocean to resume their operations. In relation to the above military move, business circle has been pushing the government to remove the Three Principles on Arms Exports that effectively ban arms exports by Japan basing upon the pacifist Constitution. Although the government in 2004 excluded the Japan-US joint development and production of missile defense systems from the restriction, the Three Principles still prohibit Japan-produced weapons from being exported overseas. Business circle is calling for the governmental policy to be relaxed with the aim of making enormous profits by selling weapons in the world market. In the December 25 (2007) the Upper House Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee meeting, an acting chair of Japan Business Federation (Nippon Keidanren) Defense Production Committee asked the government to review the Three Principles on Arms Exports so that Japan can take part in projects to jointly develop weapons with countries other than the US and sell its products and technologies overseas. In this connection, Defense Minister Ishiba is pushing arms exports by stating that it is necessary for the Self-Defense Forces (SDF) to share arms with other countries and that Japan's weapons are expensive because only SDF buys them, and Foreign Minister Komura on December 27 said that discussions on a flexible interpretation of the Three Principles did not pose a problem. It is understood that the Three Principles were established on the basis of the bitter lessons from Japan's past war of aggression that took the lives of 20 million people, and it must not be altered for the military industry's interest. Japan should not be allowed to turn into a *merchant of death* country promoting wars and conflicts throughout the world. Moreover, in "Unified View on Arms Exports" issued on February 27 (1976), the government states, "As a peace-loving nation, Japan will refrain from exporting arms to any country in order to avoid the escalation of international conflict". As the world's only nation that has a policy of banning arms exports, Japan must be qualified to play an active role in the world. A Foreign Ministry report "Japan's Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Policy 2006" states, "Since Japan neither exports arms nor has developed an export-oriented military industry, it can take the leadership for peace in the international arena". Accordingly, the Three Principles on Arms Exports must be maintained in order for Japan's diplomacy to play a role for the purpose of constructing peace in the world. Killing produces just nothing forever. (S. YUASA)