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THE JAPAN SCIENTISTS' ASSOCIATION (JSA)

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<HEADQUARTERS >

SYMPOSIUM "DEVELOPMENT AND CURRENT STATE OF NEOLIBERALISM IN JAPAN" HELD

On April 19 in Tokyo the Liaison Conference for Studying Peace and Democracy of which the Japan Scientists' Association is a member held the above symposium to discuss centering on its relationship with labor deregulation, where Prof. Igarashi (Hosei Univ.) gave a lecture. The symposium covered recent issues occurring in Japan such as working-poor problem, and poverty and gap-widening problem, having a look over how to resolve the situation.

STUDY MEETING "AGRICULTURAL DAMAGE CAUSED BY CLIMATE CHANGE FROM THE VIEWPOINT OF ENTOMOLOGY" HELD

The JSA research committee of food problem held the above meeting on April 19 in Tokyo, where Dr. Emura (Saitama Research Center of Agriculture and Forests) reported some agricultural phenomena such as red apples do not ripen in red. He pointed out that proceeding of climate change makes the conventional method "local production for local consumption" (or *precision agriculture*) inapplicable.

MINI SYMPOSIUM FOR SCIENTIFIC WORKERS IN PRIVATE ENTERPRISES HELD

On March 15 in Tokyo the JSA committee of researchers and technicians in private enterprises held the second symposium in 2007 year, where three lectures were presented. Prof. Fujita (Obirin Univ.) revealed problematic labor conditions in Cannon Co., explaining the system of cell production, effectiveness of R&D, and consumable business that supports highly profitable management of Cannon. Ms. Nishida (staff of labor union) reported two cases of *karoshi* (death from overwork) of administrative position in R&D section, namely, the case vs. Matsushita Electronics Industry Corporation where the bereaved family has scored a come-from-behind judge to certify as *karoshi*, and the case of a graduate-school-left engineer in Sekisui Chemistry, where overtime work at home was certified as work in company. Mr. Munekura (Kanagawa colloquium for scientific workers in private enterprises) revealed the actual situation of outsourced R&D of a multinational corporation.

WE ASK THE PROMPT WITHDRAWAL OF THE SDF TROOPS FROM IRAQ ACCORDING TO COURT DECISION

On April 26 the JSA secretary-general Matsukawa published his opinion that the Government must accede to the Nagoya superior court decision. That states definitely the SDF (Self-Defense Force of Japan) dispatch to Iraq infringes the Constitution. As its reason Chief Justice states that even if the special measures law (enacted in 2003) for dispatch to Iraq is assumed to be constitutional following the Governmental policy the present air transportation of the Air SDF in Iraq includes action that infringes abandonment of weapons use and limit of actions to non-combat areas stated in the law and renunciation of war in the Constitution. The Fukuda cabinet, however, jesting with this judgment, refused to exercise withdrawal of troops, which tramples separation of the powers. Understanding the court decided the SDF troops had been dispatched to prop up the global strategies of the Bush administration that are recognized isolated in the world as well as to reinforce reformation of the US bases controlling residents' opposition, we ask the Japanese Government to promptly withdraw the SPD troops from Iraq.

<NATIONAL GATHERINGS >

ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY EVALUATION HELED THE 5TH CONFERENCE IN OSAKA

The association on March 15-16 at Osaka University held the above symposium. The symposium invited Dr. P. Harteloh (Erasmus Institute, Netherland) and Mr. Miyahara (ex. President, Fuji Xerox Co.) to discuss how to value quality of university education: results and varieties. The following four sessions were organized: 1) purpose of life of university indicators and evaluation, 2) four-year results since privatization of university, 3) to evaluate the

university evaluation organization, 4) sexual and academic harassment in universities.

<REGIONAL ACTIVITIES >

DISTRICT SYMPOSIUM "PROBLEMS OF INSTITUTIONALISATION OF UNIVERSITY AND TECHNICAL COLLEGE" HELD

The Hokuriku district (Toyama, Ishikawa, and Fukui Prefectures) held the above symposium on April 19 in Toyama Prefecture to comprehend the actual situation of the problems and seek its resolution, where Prof. Hosoi (Osaka City Univ.) addressed a keynote lecture and three constituent branches presented reports. The symposium revealed several problems occurred since the reinforcement of the Basic Law of Science and Technology (1995) and continuously rising along the Basic Plan of Science and Technology (three periods: 1996-2000, 2001-2005, 2006-2010).

<LOCAL ACTIVITIES IN MARCH AND APRIL >

1. MIYAGI BRANCH

On April 12 in Sendai City the branch organized the 5th branch lecture, where Prof. Maeda (branch member) made a lecture on the strange world of slime fungus. As is commonly known, slime fungus are frequently miscomprehended as bacteria or molds. He explained their characteristics and the reason of their usefulness for the research of cytology and cytogenesis.

2. TOKYO BRANCH

1) The Tokyo branch celebrated the 40th anniversary on April 6, at Hitotsu-bashi University. Two lectures were given: "Health of elderly must be turned to self-responsibility? – Thinking from dietary life and health measurements" by Prof. Ikegami (branch representative council) and "How to create tomorrow of Japan, the JSA, and myself in a decade hereafter?" by Prof. Yoneda (branch director).

2) The 37th Hachi-oji science forum was held on April 10, where they invited Mr. Inoue to talk about his opinion and experiences on war and hiku poetry.

3) The 55th peace colloquium was organized on April 25 at Bunkyo Civic Center, Tokyo, where Prof. Kaneko (Rissho Univ.) made a lecture on the fundamentals of the Constitution of Japan. This time, he subsequently explained the chapter concerning the rights and duties of the Japanese people.

3. OSAKA BRANCH

1) The Kansai-area's colloquium for scientific workers in private enterprises held the regular meeting on April 6 at the office of the Osaka branch. Dr. Yamaguchi presented a lecture entitled "apes and human beings", where he asserted the characteristics of human beings can be comprehended by understanding the ecology of apes.

2) The study group *Philosophy* organized a meeting on April 23, where Dr. Komorita (Osaka branch) explained the scientific thought of R. Tsuchida, an outstanding chemist famous for having tackled problems of environment and natural science education.

3) The study group *Contemporary capitalism* on April 24, Prof. Suzuki (St. Andrew's Univ.) gave a seminar "Reconstruction of stable system of stakeholders".

4. KYOTO BRANCH

On April 25 at Seta Campus of Ryukoku University, Kyoto branch and the labor union of Ryukoku University together held the lecture meeting inviting Prof. Kaifu (Emeritus Prof. of National Astronomical Observatory of Japan) as a lecturer. As chair of the third session of Science Council of Japan, he reported the précis of report "On the present research evaluation in Japan and its idealized vision" written in February 26, 2008 by the investigation committee of research evaluation in the Council.

5. YAMAGATA BRANCH

On April 25 at Yamagata University the branch held a regular meeting with a lecture "Thinking of the dispatched workers law from Labor Standards Law" by Prof. Takagi (Yamagata Univ.), where he pointed out that at least halves of the youth and women employees are renormalized and serious problems such as registered types of dispatched workers, social disparity, and working-poor have been raised.