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**THE JAPAN SCIENTISTS' ASSOCIATION (JSA)**

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**<HEADQUARTERS >**

**WE OPPOSE THE BASIC LAW ON SPACE**

The JSA general-secretary Dr. Matsukawa announced a statement against the Basic Law on Space on May 9 as follows.

The draft was passed forcibly in the Cabinet Committee of the House of Representative only in two-hour discussion. The JSA wishes peaceful use of science and technology and opposes military use of space. From that we oppose the draft and protest against the Committee's decision. Japan has adopted as a national policy the three principles since Diet Resolution enacted in 1969: democratic and independent management and disclosure of results in development and use of space.

The draft, violating that national policy on the pretext of "security", has an aim to open a way to military use of space such as missile-defense plan, foster the military industry, and place space study under the custody of the state. Such move and revision move of the Constitution, which has a purpose to rebuild Japan as a country to wage war must be recognized as combined. We appeal that the bill should be abandoned and claim the Government to carry on the three principles (independence, democracy, and disclosure).

**39<sup>TH</sup> GENERAL ASSEMBLY HELD IN TOKYO**

On May 24 and 25, JSA members from 47 branches gathered and exchanged their views concerning what they did and what they must do in future.

They pledged to take the following movements so as to prospect and build a feature of the world and Japan in the 21<sup>st</sup> century: 1) to present the study results in the 17<sup>th</sup> Comprehensive Scientific Study Convention to be held on November 22 and 24 in Nagoya City; 2) to study profoundly the Constitution of Japan, realize the spirit of the previous Fundamental Law of Education, and collect 10,000 signatures for the appeal of Kyujo-no-Kai (Article 9 Society); 3) to successfully hold the Scientists' Forum of 2008 World Conference against A&H Bombs on August 1 at Tsukuba City; 4) to make broad consensus to "scientific workers' ethical code" and "declaration of scientific workers' rights and status" announced at the 38<sup>th</sup> general assembly last year; 5) to present a suggestion to improve research conditions in institutes and young researchers' study circumstances; 6) to take action for the improvement of women's study conditions and positions.

For those purposes participants agreed to make secure organization, adopting the following three resolutions: 1) "We shall take action to overcome the crisis of academic and educational circumstances and advance true development of them"; 2) "We claim that the Japanese government drastically change the measure of green house gas reduction prior to the Toyako Summit (July, 2008, Hokkaido)"; 3) "We oppose realignment and reinforcement of the US-Japan alliance and call on the Japanese government to change domestic and international policies basing on the peaceful Constitution".

**THE RESEARCH COMMITTEE OF SYMBIOTIC SOCIETY HELD A MEETING**

The committee discussed concerning energy consumption, climate change, nuclear energy, and bio-energy together with invited speaker Prof. Fukao (Kyoto branch).

**<LOCAL ACTIVITIES IN APRIL AND MAY >**

**1. OSAKA BRANCH**

- 1) On May 11 was organized the Kansai-area's colloquium for scientific workers in private enterprises where Dr. Kunimura gave a lecture entitled "Thinking of global warming".
- 2) On May 17, at Senriyama Campus of Kansai University, the Osaka branch held the 35<sup>th</sup> Comprehensive Study Symposium of Science entitled "Change the wasteful structure and culture!", which was to discuss alternatives for human existence and our life mode exploring the wasteful structure of modern society causing global environmental problems. Three lectures were: "The thought of ecological footprint" by Ms. Sirai (Okayama Univ.); "The wasteful structure of eating and the security of food staff – reported from customs" by Mr. Fukumoto (the union of customs agents); "Food mileage and Water mileage" by Ms. Nakamura (Hannan Univ.). The 43<sup>rd</sup> regular assembly subsequently was held, where two lectures were given: "Building eco-campus in Kansai University" by Prof. Yoshinaga (Kansai Univ.); "Kleingarten family idea – thinking of the 21<sup>st</sup> regional future" by Prof. Konuki (Emiritus Prof. of Shiga Pref. Univ.), and Ms. Ito (researcher in "Satoyama-ann Nomad", NGO protecting local commons).
- 3) On May 24, the study group *Energy problems* held a meeting, where Mr. Ashimura gave a survey based on the latest Japanese edition of State of the World.
- 4) The study group *Contemporary capitalism* on May 29, Prof. Iwasaki gave a lecture on "Finance and modern capitalism".
- 5) On May 30, the branch held a lecture meeting on Mongol, where two lectures were presented: "Mining development and resistance movement of nomad – mercurial poisoning" by Prof. Imaoka (Hannan Univ.) and "My own life in Institute of Geology and Mineral Resources in Mongolian Academy of Sciences" by Dr. Sakamaki (geologist). The latter revealed a feature and charm of Mongol that never have been seen on TV, which moved participants.

## **2. KYOTO BRANCH**

The 33<sup>rd</sup> regular meeting of individual members was held on May 10, in Kyoto. They enthusiastically discussed a recent media problem after hearing Mr. Yuyama's talk "Into what circumstances does NHK fall?" which sent a wake-up call to the recent move following national policy of NHK that deviates from its fundamental point as a public business.

## **3. TOKYO BRANCH**

- 1) On May 18 the Tokyo branch held its branch assembly and adopted four resolutions: 1) "We shall broaden a campaign to protect Article 9 of the Constitution"; 2) "We claim prompt abolishment of medical care system that segregates elderly persons of 75 years or more"; 3) We claim abandonment of Basic Law on Space and to confine research and development on space to peaceful purposes"; and a resolution to criticize the banking crisis caused by the governor of Metropolis of Tokyo and leading parties.
- 2) On May 27 at Tama Campus of Chuo University, the Chuo University chapter held the 3<sup>rd</sup> research meeting on criticism of neo-liberalism, where Prof. Sato (Tokyo Kasei-Gakuin Univ.) talked about "What is the criticism of postwar pedagogy? – centering on criticism of national educational rights".
- 3) On May 30 at Bunkyo Civic Center, Tokyo, the 56<sup>th</sup> new peace colloquium was organized, where Prof. Kaneko (Rissho Univ.) made the 9<sup>th</sup> lecture on the fundamentals of the Constitution of Japan. He mainly touched upon people's rights and duties in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Chapter of the Constitution.

## **4. HYOGO BRANCH**

On May 10, the Hyogo branch held the 2008 branch assembly combined with a lecture by Dr. Mizuki "Tomorrow of graduate school?" which raised a question on working poor with academic background.

## **5. FUKUOKA BRANCH**

On May 11 at Kurume University, the Fukuoka branch held a symposium "Thinking of peace and the Constitution of Japan" with two invited speakers. Prof. Miyoshi (Kyushu Univ.) gave a lecture concerning Faslane 365 (365-day blockage at Faslane Trident nuclear base from October 1, 2006, through October 1, 2007), and Prof. Izumi (Kyushu Univ.) talked about the Constitution.