

---

No. 204 (July 10, 2008)

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

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

FAX: +81-3-3813-2363, URL: <http://www.jsa.gr.jp/intl>

---

<HEADQUARTERS >

**SYMPOSIUM "THINKING OF CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT AND REFORMATION" HELD IN TOKYO**

The law section of the Society of Science and Democracy, the JSA special committee of constitutional problem and other democratic groups organized the above symposium as the second stage of Series Symposium "Exploring the meaning of the Japanese Constitution in the 21<sup>st</sup> century" on June 21 at the Liberty Tower of Meiji University. The following two lectures were presented: "How to cope with the constitutional amendment?" by Prof. Aikyo (Nagoya Univ.) and "Decentralization of government to local jurisdictions and our living" by Prof. Shirafuji (Senshu University).

**The 44<sup>th</sup> Executive Council held**

On June 28-29 at Bunkyo Civic Center, Tokyo, the JSA 44<sup>th</sup> executive council was held. Basing on resolutions adopted at the 39<sup>th</sup> General Assembly on May 24-25, the councilors checked the going of activities and decided commitments to advance movements corresponding to ensuing circumstances and subjects. They reconfirmed the following tasks: 1) Opposing constitutional amendment, neo-nationalism, and neo-liberalism, joining the movements to seek peace, democracy, welfare improvement, and environmental protection, we shall elucidate and propose the 21<sup>st</sup> desirable feature of our state; 2) Opposing service of education and study for capital and nation, and introduction of control, screening, priority system, competition into academic activities, we shall take action of academic freedom, comprehensive academic development, peaceful use of science, and investigate the true academic system in the 21<sup>st</sup> century; 3) We shall elucidate the role of the Japanese Constitution in the society of the 21<sup>st</sup> century; 4) To these ends we must enlarge and build up our organization.

**ON THE LAW OF REINFORCEMENT OF RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ABILITIES**

On June 30 secretary-general of the JSA, Dr. Matsukawa has voiced his opinion on the recently passed "Law for Reinforcement of Research and Development Abilities" at the 169<sup>th</sup> session of regular Diet, expressing resentment at only one-hour discussion in both houses.

He explains that the Law inherits the Promotion Law of Research Exchange which determines fixed-term adoption of researchers and gratitude conveyance of results commissioned by the state and stipulates the opening of facilities to the private-sectors. Although including a few adjustments of research development measures such as alleviation of corporate downsizing, it still lets research ability of public institutes including universities serve to strengthen international competitiveness of private companies. The Law further promotes the concentration of essentials and the efficiency and competition, which could not improve the difficulty for the youth to find job under the more worsened research conditions, and worsen under the name of *ability utilization*. He remarked it momentous that Article 41 states the Government shall strive to prevent abroad outflow of results of researches in institutes commissioned by the Government, to which the statements similar were seen in the Basic Law on Space (passed on May 21). The *information control* and *escape prevention* as to information such as research results of science and technology are intended. It is problematic to curb the presentation of research results even funded by national taxes. Such moves concretize the investigation of disclosure prevention of technologies used for military and private companies which has been reported by press since last year, preparing to tie up the US's missile defense policy. We should take a deep interest in that, strongly ask to promote science and technology research basing on the three principles: democratic and independent management and disclosure of results and wish to call on thinking researchers, technicians, and Japanese scientists, graduate students to voice, finally he said.

## <LOCAL ACTIVITIES IN MAY AND JUNE >

### 1. SAITAMA BRANCH

On June 7 the branch organized the 35<sup>th</sup> branch general assembly, where the following two lectures were delivered: "Introduction of school-provided lunch, recognized as a nationwide model" by Mr. Matsumoto (secretary-general, Saitama union of farmers' movements); "Action toward G8 in Hokkaido – Agriculture cools the earth" by Mr. Tateisi (president, Saitama union of farmers' movements).

### 2. TOKYO BRANCH

1) The 10<sup>th</sup> Chofu science forum was held on May 10 at The University of Electro-Communications, where Dr. Terada (ret., Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency) addressed a lecture "The grains of sand on the seashore and causes of accidents – From case study of structural disorder".

2) The 38<sup>th</sup> Hachioji science forum was held on June 12, where Prof. Takada (Chuo Univ.) provided a subject about the subprime loan problem.

### 3. FUKUI BRANCH

1) The Fukui University Article 9 Society and the branch presented an exhibition of Students-thought "War and Peace" at Fukui University.homecoming.

2) On May 17 at Fukui University the Fukui branch held a branch lecture meeting entitled "Four years of graduate school program nuclear power/energy safety engineering" by Prof. Fukui (chair, nuclear power/energy safety engineering, Univ. of Fukui), where he explained the regional contribution of the program, which however has never touched argument about the relationship with natural energy, active faults, and earth quake.

### 4. KYOTO

On May 18 at the 42<sup>nd</sup> branch general assembly, the branch adopted an appeal "We oppose the basic law on space, which admits possession of military satellite and renders Japan enter into space arms race".

### 5. OSAKA BRANCH

1) The study group *Contemporary capitalism* organized a meeting on June 26, where a lecture "On ruled capitalism – A possibility of labor movement" was delivered.

2) The study group *Philosophy* organized a meeting on June 27, where a lecture "the life and works of Philosopher Hiroshi Nagata" was delivered.

3) On June 28, the study group *Energy problems* held a meeting, where Mr. Ashimura secondly explained the contents of the latest Japanese edition of State of the World.

4) The study group Hegel's '*the Great Logic*' held a meeting on June 7 at St. Andrews University's Osaka City satellite office in Osaka City, where they discussed the text book "The Logical Lecture (1831)".

5) The Kansai-area's colloquium for scientific workers in private enterprises was organized on June 8, where they discussed a report of the conference on earth and planetary science held on May 23-30 at Makuhari Convention Hall, Chiba.

### 6. TOTTORI BRANCH

The Tottori branch organized civic lecture on the life-long education and the social movement in Sweden on June 7 at the life-long education center, Tottori University, where Prof. Oota explained the relationship between the life-long education and the social movement in Sweden. Then the branch assembly was held.

### 7. TOKUSHIMA BRANCH

On June 7-8 in Tokushima Prefecture the branch organized the 54<sup>th</sup> Shikoku Conference against A&H Bombs, where Prof. Anzai (representative secretary, JSA) delivered a lecture on the recent situation in peace and movements for the elimination of atomic weapons.

### 8. OKINAWA BRANCH

The branch organized a memorial lecture "Infringement of Assessment Ordinance in Henoko Bay" by Prof. Tsuchida and then the 39<sup>th</sup> branch assembly was opened.