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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 >

EARTHQUAKE PROOF SAFETY OF NUCLEAR POWER PLANT ARGUED

On July 6 in Tokyo three JSA research committees investigating the problems on disasters, nuclear power plants and Sea of Japan organized a symposium entitled "Examine the safety of Kariwa Nuclear Power Plant at Kashiwazaki, Niigata Prefecture, in relation to the earthquake in the waters off Niigata-Chuetsu district". The earthquake occurred in 2007, which caused a first-time seismic hazard in the power plant in the world. Nuclear Safety Commission, Nuclear and Industrial Safety Agency, and nuclear power plants around the country are conducting a review of the earthquake safety. Four reports were presented, especially Dr. Aoyagi pointed out the problematic point of new guideline to review aseismic design and site investigation.

ENVISAGE THE 21ST SOCIETY FROM THE VIEWPOINT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEM

This mini symposium was organized on July 12 in Tokyo as a prelude for the 17th Comprehensive Scientific Study Convention which is to be held on November 22-24 this year. A report "Recent abnormal weather and IPCC report" by Dr. Iwamoto (Kyoto Univ., ret.) and a comment on the issues in the 21st century by Dr. Matsukawa (National Research Institute for Fisheries Science, Fishery Research Agency, ret.) were afforded. Participants debated the problem whether we should conduct a minor or fundamental adjustment of the society in order to pluck Japan from the global warming.

SECRETARY-GENERAL MATSUKAWA COMPLAINS TO AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHERIES MINISTRY

The JSA secretary-general Dr. Matsukawa reclaimed the ministry's appeal against the ruling of Saga district court in Isahaya Bay Case and Premier Fukuda's confirmation. The court ordered to open the drainage gates constructed for the Isahaya Bay reclamation project, recognizing that the project worsened the environments. The ministry suited on the pretext that opening the gates would raise contingent situations, that is, fishery damages and water gate crash because of muddy water including marine soil hoisted by rapid tide. It is all right as long as opening gates is gradually conducted checking safety according to specialists' indication. Dr. Matsukawa is sure that the problems of agricultural water and flood could be also settled using Japanese science and technology, and deeming that the ministry and the government have no intension to strike a balance between agriculture and fishery. The government as the carrier reportedly wishes not to bare the onus probandi, which satisfies major general constructors, and material companies. To this point he charges the government's preferential treatment for promotion of industries rather than synthetic promotion of agriculture, forestry and fisheries, or raising self-sufficiency rates of foods and woods, or protect of natural environments, which evidently runs counter to the recent movement of global environmental preservation. He finally claimed that Premier Fukuda, as the host of Toyako Summit, should be ashamed, and then as the premier of an advanced country back down on the latest appeal at once and resolve to open the drainage gates for the purpose of natural environmental preservation and synthetic promotion of agriculture, forestry and fisheries.

<LOCAL ACTIVITIES IN JUNE AND JULY >

1. MIYAGI BRANCH

1) The branch has a plan to organize four civic lectures on the health service for the elderly aged 75 years or more. The first lecture was held on July 17, at Sendai City, with invited speaker Mr. Samata (vice president,

Miyagi promote council for social security).

2) On July 19 the first branch study meeting of this term was held, where Prof. Jinguji (Miyagi Univ.) provided a lecture entitled "Aiming to bring back rice paddy scenery where red dragonflies are flying".

2. TOKYO BRANCH

1) On July 6 the Hitotsubashi graduate school student chapter organized an event for new students, which was to discuss the space image visiting National Astronomical Observatory of Japan.

2) On July 13 the individual members of the branch invited Yokosuka City, historical site of modern military affair and industry at the end of Edo Period, and participated in Yokosuka Assemblage, which was held to oppose the deployment of nuclear aircraft carrier George Washington.

3) A lot of peace organizations including the Tokyo branch held a charity concert on July 18 to build a fund for the earthquake disaster in China.

4) Women group "Hazuki-no-kai (August Society)" of the branch organized a study meeting on gender problem on July 19 at Tokyo, where Ms. Aoki (doctoral student, Hitotsubashi Univ.) gave a report on the relationship between science and gender. Participants discussed gender-based problem basing on results of questionnaire survey conducted by Japan Inter-Society Liaison Association for Promoting Equal Participation of Men and Women in Science and Engineering.

5) On July 19 the 11th Chofu Science Forum was organized at University of Electro-Communications, where they discussed the authentication appraisal of universities and other institutes.

6) The 58th new peace colloquium was organized on July 25, where Prof. Kaneko (Rissho Univ.) made the 11th lecture on the fundamentals of the Constitution of Japan.

7) Graduate school students of the Tokyo branch held a study meeting on July 25 at University Seminar House in Hachioji, where they discussed their research plan and exchanged their values in research life.

8) The branch held a study meeting for heading off panic in stockbreeding, where Dr. Imamiya (Emeritus Prof., Chuo Univ.) expressed his opinion that it is possible to impose a ban on speculation to future crops market, and Prof. Nobuoka (Tokyo Univ. Agriculture) stressed the high-yielding varieties of rice for animal consumption is the trump card to head off panic.

3. KANAGAWA BRANCH

The branch held the 8th Kanagawa Forum for Article 9 of the Constitution of Japan on June 29 at Tsurumi University, Yokohama City, where Prof. Hayashi (Kanto Gakuin Univ.) gave a lecture on the historical perception problem focusing on the collective suicide happened in the Battle of Okinawa.

4. TOKUSHIMA BRANCH

1) The 2008 Peace Action Relay in Tokushima was held on July 5, of which the branch is one of organizing members. The relay has been held every year to remember the air raid of July 5, 1945 in Tokushima.

2) On July 12 at Tokushima University the branch held a branch assembly to review its activities and discuss coming Shikoku district symposium (November 15) and Comprehensive Scientific Study Convention (November 22-24), thereafter a regular study meeting entitled "Present activities and problems in the antinuclear movement" lectured by Prof. Hattori.

5. HYOGO BRANCH

1) The branch and organizations supporting the restoration of Hanshin-Awaji earthquake disaster held the second symposium of the problems of earthquake and nuclear power plant on July 13 in Kobe City, where they discussed several problems concerning the security of nuclear power plant and the dependence of local economy on nuclear power plants.

2) The branch and Hyogo Institute of Local Governments projected a one-day green tour around Soyo Town on July 19. They enjoyed sunflower fields and a lecture of Director of Nishi-Harima Astronomical Observatory.

6. OSAKA BRANCH

1) The study group Hegel's '*the Great Logic*' held a meeting on July 5 at St. Andrews University's Osaka City satellite office in Osaka City, where they discussed the text book "The Logical Lecture (1831)".

2) The Kansai-area's colloquium for scientific workers in private enterprises was organized on July 6, where they discussed global warming.