

JSA MEMBER PROF. MASUKAWA WON A NOBEL PRIZE IN PHYSICS

Three Japanese physicists, Professors Y. Nambu, M. Kobayashi, and T. Masukawa won a Nobel Prize. Prof. Masukawa (Emeritus Prof. of Kyoto Univ.), member of the JSA, at the press conference talked his research attitude and emphasized researchers must keep interest in social issues, which has been fostered during the days at the Sakata school.

2008 SUMMER SCHOOL IN KYOTO

The JSA committee of young researchers and the Kyoto branch organized the summer school at Campus Plaza Kyoto from September 26 through 28, where participants exchanged their experiences and opinions. On opening day the executive committee organized a field work in Utoro district (established by Korean since about 1930). On the second day, graduate students exchanged their opinions in research, especially worries about thesis writing. On the third day, participants discussed the role of researchers as educators, focusing on advancing scientific viewpoint. In fact the graduate school education is generally devoid of effort to consciously train educators.

<RESEARCH COMMITTEES' ACTIVITIES >

THE 30TH SYMPOSIUM OF NUCLEAR POWER PLANT PROBLEM HELD

The JSA committee of energy and atomic power question and the Ishikawa branch organized the symposium which aimed to discuss centered on circumstances around atomic energy and related seismic hazards. The symposium was divided into three sessions:

1) The past and present of nuclear power plants.

Prof. Noguchi (Nihon Univ.) gave a memorial address, where he summed up contents of past symposia. Dr. Motojima (Central Research Institute of Electric Power Industry, ret.) talked about the world situation in energy and nuclear power plants. Dr. Fukao (Shizuoka Univ., ret.) reported the accident at Shiga Nuclear Power Station, Hokuriku Electric Power Co., where control rod withdrawal happened. Dr. Iida (Ishikawa branch) reviewed the 40-year history of nuclear power plants in Ishikawa Prefecture.

2) Earthquake and nuclear power generation.

Dr. Kohno (Emeritus Prof. of Kanazawa Univ.) explained what earth science tells us about what circumstances the earthquake breaks out. Prof. Tateishi (Niigata Univ.) criticized the new guideline of earthquake resistant test and the interim report. Dr. Kodama (Ishikawa branch) commented on how Ishikawa Prefecture and Hokuriku Electric Power Co. dealt the problem of active faults in resumption of Shiga Nuclear Power Station 2.

3) Disasters and their prevention in relation to nuclear power plants

Prof. Murosaki (Kansei Gakuin Univ.) gave a talk about what the fire disaster that occurred at the nuclear power plant at the time of Chuetsu-oki earthquake (offing of Niigata) tells us. Prof. Tateno lectured on the earthquake disaster at the Kashiwazaki-Kariwa nuclear power station. Dr. Aoyagi (Japan Energy Research Institute, ret.) commented on the point at issue in the affection of the Kashiwazaki-Kariwa

nuclear power station disaster and the prevention policy of nuclear plant disaster.

<DISTRICTS' ACTIVITIES >

"TO SAFELY SURVIVE IN THE 21ST CENTURY" HELD

The Kinki district (5 Prefectures: Kyoto, Nara, Osaka, Wakayama, Hyogo) organized a district symposium under the above title, where discussed were the possibility to establish the society independent of fossil fuel and nuclear power generations. Three lectures were delivered: "The prospect of the society independent of global warming" by Dr. Matsukawa (oceanography), "Global warming prevention away from atomic energy and by spreading the use of renewable energy" by Dr. Wada (citizen group to spread natural energy), and "Sustainable development and energy issues and measures" by Prof. Ueda (Kyoto Univ., environmental economics).

<LOCAL ACTIVITIES IN SEPTEMBER >

MIYAGI BRANCH

The branch held a second civic lecture on September 4 in Sendai City, where Mr. Tsukuda (Social Security Promotion Society) clarified the purpose of the governmental policy to reform social security structure, and that under that circumstances bad news have been covered extensively every day such as defect of physicians, shrinking and abolishment of hospitals, and breakdown of emergency medical service.

TOKYO BRANCH

- 1) The 39th Hachioji science forum was held on September 11 in Hachioji City, where Dr. Imamiya (Emeritus Prof. of Chuo Univ.) delivered a lecture on inhibition to speculate in the grain futures market.
- 2) The 12th Chofu science forum was held on September 13 at The University of Electro-Communications, where Dr. Yoshino (Emeritus Prof. thereof) addressed a lecture on the relation between solar spots and extraordinary natural phenomena having occurred in the late medieval times of Europe.
- 3) The executive committee of citizen gathering to discuss intellectual property (the Patent Agency chapter of the branch participates in) organized the 9th gathering on September 27, Tokyo, with the title "Intellectual property strategy in era of globalization – Explore a weak point in the strategy". The following two lectures were given: "Open patent – Explore another nation through intellectual property" by Mr. Oyama, and "The characteristics of Japanese companies' strategy to be multinational" by the Patent Agency chapter.

KANAGAWA BRANCH

- 1) Prior to the regular meeting the branch on September 19 invited Dr. Sasaki (ret., Advanced Technology Research Laboratories, Nippon Steel Cooperation) to give an interdisciplinary lecture, where he talked his conclusion on Japanese historical iron manufacture against the existing theory according to his book "History of Iron Age".
- 2) From September 27 through 28 at Hakone (famous hot-spring area near Tokyo) the Kanagawa member group of scientific workers in private enterprises organized a meeting to exchange their opinions and experiences.

OSAKA BRANCH

- 1) The Kansai-area's colloquium for scientific workers in private enterprises was organized on September 7, where Mr. Miwa (branch member) talked his 10-year experiences of circle activities in the community.
- 2) The study group *Contemporary capitalism* held a lecture meeting on September 25, where following the report of Prof. Iwahashi (Hannan Univ.) the economical change to speculation and finance was discussed.