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THE JAPAN SCIENTISTS' ASSOCIATION (JSA)

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14TH HANSHIN AWAJI GREAT EARTHQUAKE MEMORIAL EXERCISE HELD

On January 17, 2009 the 14th Hanshin Awaji great earthquake memorial exercise was organized by Hanshin Awaji Great Earthquake Hyogo Congress for Rescue and Restoration and the executive committee. Participants explored around devastated area, Nagata after 14 years, attending Prof. Shiozaki's (Kobe Univ.) lecture presentation, discussed 14 years of Nagata and issues of land readjustment, formation of streets, and local industry. It must be remarked that Kobe City government went ahead with land readjustment and decided the city plan of redevelopment without regard for residents' voices, which rebuilt Nagata Ward as a secondary center of city western part.

JAPANESE FOOD AND AGRICULTURE PROBLEMS

The research committee of foodstuff problems held a symposium concerning the above theme on January 31 in Tokyo. The committee raised a question about what the cooperative society (co-op supermarkets were involved in disguised indication affairs) and the government should do for food safety, as to which four speakers gave lectures as follows: i) "It is time to go ahead food self-support" by Dr. Miyamura (Emeritus Prof., Japan Women's Univ.), ii) "Food safety problem and task of the cooperative society" by Mr. Nishimura (Consumer Cooperative Institute of Japan, research stuff), iii) "A journalist view of food safety problem" by Mr. Iwaware (journalist), and iv) Ms. Koyama (lawyer).

<LOCAL ACTIVITIES IN DECEMBER 2008 AND JANUARY 2009 >

IWATE BRANCH

On December 22 the branch committee of environmental problem organized a study meeting, where Prof. Matsuyama (committee chair) delivered a lecture entitled "Nuclear facilities at the Eastern Shimokita Peninsula and fault problem around the installation location".

MIYAGI BRANCH

On January 24 the branch held the New Year lecture "Reading 'Manifest' on the first day of January", which was delivered by Prof. Omura (Graduate School of Economics and Management, Tohoku Univ.). He explained four facts around *Manifest der Kommunistischen Partei* written by Marx and Engels, namely i) how Mr. Kotoku and Mr. Sakai for the first time published its translation in Japanese, ii) characteristics of the Chinese text translated by Mr. Chen mainly from the Japanese text in reference to the English text by S. Moore, iii) its problematic points, and iv) the history of Chinese notation in Marxism nomenclature.

TOKYO BRANCH

1) The group of women members gathered on December 23, 2008 to discuss i) report of the women researchers session and a meeting to exchange members' views in 17th Comprehensive Scientific Study Convention, ii) future committee organization, iii) liaison conference of academic circles to advance gender equity, iv) research meeting on gender problem (2).

2) Tama Hegel study group held a seminar on December 27 at Tama campus of Chuo University, where Mr. Shikima (grad student, Hitotsubashi Univ.) read the Introduction of *Hegel's Great Logic study* (2nd ed.) written by S. Mita.

3) Machida Forum held a regular meeting on January 10, where Mr. Yamazaki (chair, Saitama Lecture of "Capital") delivered a lecture entitled "Why did financial panic happen?".

KANAGAWA BRANCH

On January 21 the branch held a regular meeting, where Prof. Nishioka (Keio Univ.) talked his interest in algebraic structures and explained his main result on a particular type of ordinary differential operator analogous to Eisenstein polynomial.

KYOTO BRANCH

- 1) The research committee of symbiotic society held a regular meeting on December 26 in Kyoto, where Mr. Omura (president, Kyoto music education society) delivered a lecture on life and culture in an existing primitive and uncultivated society.
- 2) Individual members group organized a New Year meeting on January 10 at Japan-Eurasia Society Kyoto office, where Prof. Mukai (Ritsumeikan Univ.) explained world recession and international finance organizations.
- 3) The branch organized an on-the-spot visit at a shopping area in Kyoto on January 30, where Mr. Harada (Kyoto prefectural assembly member) guided along the article.

OSAKA BRANCH

- 1) On January 10 the branch council adopted a statement "We claim a prompt ceasefire at Gaza", which was sent to Israel Ambassador in Japan.
- 2) On January 11 at the branch office the Kansai-area's colloquium for scientific workers in private enterprises held a study meeting, where Ms. Aburaya reported about activities of *Osaka Society Seeking for Denuclearized Government*. The society was established 22 years ago by 6 founders and 220 advocates, at that time citizens had been feeling uncertainty according to SDI (Strategic Defense Initiative) participation conducted by then 3rd Nakasone Cabinet and that a US battle ship carrying Tomahawk called in at Sasebo port. Since then, the following 5 disciplines have been acceded: i) prevent nuclear war, eliminate nuclear weapons, ii) adhere three anti-nuclear principles, iii) prevent Japan from nuclear battle field, iv) make enact Atomic Bomb Survivors' Support Law, and v) enforce international solidarity based on agreement of World Conference against A&H Bombs.
- 3) On January 19 at the branch office the study committee of philosophy held a regular meeting, where Prof. Makino (Hannan Univ.) gave a lecture on Nature's root value. The Osaka University Forum was held on January 30 at Toyonaka campus of Osaka University, where Ms. Komorita and Ms. Imaoka reported about investigation into mercury contamination at a gold mine in Mongolia, which was carried out as a JSA project. They explained the actual situation of Mongolia in relation to converted market-oriented economy and expanded poverty.
- 4) The branch participated in the 37th Environmental Pollution Day on January 31, which was to discuss the following questions: polluted rice, Neyagawa plastic waste disposal plant, highway pollution, Sennan asbestos trial case, environmental administration, and big exclamation.

NARA BRANCH

The branch held a regular meeting on January 30 at Nara Women's University, where Prof. Minori (Tezukayama Gakuin Univ.) delivered a lecture on recent formation of streets.

FUKUOKA BRANCH

The environmental study committee of the Fukuoka branch held a regular meeting on January 10 at Kurume University, where Prof. Aono (Kyushu Univ.) gave a lecture on natural energy resource in Kyushu district and its possibility to utilize.

OKINAWA BRANCH

On December 22 at Ryukyu University the branch held a gathering to exchange members' studies. Participants had a joyful time to hear two reports. Firstly Prof. Yahuso (engineering, Ryukyu Univ.) talked about some reports delivered at the 17th Comprehensive Scientific Study Conference at Nagoya University, especially Sawada's speech on physical school of Nagoya University Prof. Masukawa (Nobel prize winner in physics) belonged to. Nextly participants discussed the Awase mudflat protect movement and epoch-making judge of Naha district court, which encouraged the movement.