

# SHISO-UNDO NEWS

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Don't turn the islands into battlefields!

2,100 people participated in the demonstration march after the "May 21 Peace Rally" held at Chatan Stadium Butterfly Square in Okinawa (May 21, 2023, photo by EDAGAWA Toshio)  
 (SHISO-UNDO NO. 1089, JUNE 1, 2023)

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## Collusion of the arsonists for wars deceiving as “peace” G7 Hiroshima Summit exposed the reality of the world and Japan

ŌYAMA Ayumu

### A sickening farce

The G7 Hiroshima Summit was held May 19-21, and on the 21st Zelensky attended this summit. At this meeting, this puppet of NATO and Ukrainian fascists was made into a noble anti-nuclear and peace warrior. It was a truly sickening farce. NHK reported his actions in Hiroshima in detail. Some commercial broadcasters changed their already planned programs to show him offering flowers at Hiroshima Peace Park.

At this meeting, the participants laid out the following policies. They were: to strengthen support for Ukraine, to enforce sanctions against Russia, and to further strengthen the encirclement of China and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. This policy was part of the strategy for world domination by the imperialist powers. Zelensky repeated his belligerent assertions. He insisted that he would continue the war and that he would fight thoroughly against Russia. And he called for increased military support by the imperialist powers for Ukraine. In response to his claim, Biden promptly pledged the following aid: \$375 million worth of additional ammunition and equipment, as well as F-16 fighter jets from European countries. Kishida offered to provide 100 trucks and other Self-Defense Force vehicles and 30,000 rations of food.

In the war in Ukraine, many casualties have already occurred. It is also dangerous enough to provoke a nuclear war or a world war. At the meeting, there was no discussion of ending the war as soon as possible. On the contrary, the discussions were aimed at prolonging and expanding the war. There was also a Japan-U.S.-Korea meeting and a QUAD meeting, whose participants laid out a policy for further escalating already heightened tensions in the Asia-Pacific region by antagonizing and provoking China and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK). Sun Weidong, Deputy Foreign

Minister of China, protested to the Japanese government on May 21 as follows. “The Japanese government, as the rotating chair of the G7, has joined with related countries in denigrating China in a series of activities and joint statements at the Hiroshima summit. The Japanese government has also violently interfered in China's internal affairs and defied the basic principles of international law and the spirit of the four political documents exchanged between China and Japan. Furthermore, the Japanese government undermined China's sovereignty, security, and development interests. The Chinese government expresses its strong dissatisfaction and firm opposition to these actions by the Japanese government.”

“The G7 Leaders' Statement on Ukraine”, released on May 19, denounced Russia's “military action” as “an illegal, unlawful, and unjustified war of aggression” and stated that “our support for Ukraine is unwavering.” In their statement, the leaders announced that additional sanctions would be imposed on Russia and that measures would be stepped up to ensure that Russia could not evade the sanctions. We, Shiso-Undo, do not condone the Russian military action launched last February, even if it is defensive in nature. However, it was the imperialists who forced the Putin regime to make the choice to take military action. It was the imperialists who expanded NATO toward the East and posed an extreme military threat to Russia, including a nuclear attack. The imperialists and their pro-fascist proxy in Ukraine (Zelensky and other regime officials!) are the very source of the current war. They are still not only continuing that war, but expanding it further. Support for Ukraine and sanctions against Russia will never bring peace. What we must do now is to immediately stop the war and start peace negotiations. In this regard, we support the proposals made in “China's Position on the Political Settlement of the Ukraine Crisis” released by the Chinese government in February.

Kishida has repeatedly announced his determination to achieve a nuclear-free world. However, the “G7 Hiroshima Vision for Nuclear Disarmament,” released on March 19, showed a will diametrically opposed to that determination. The A-bomb victims’ organizations and civil society groups opposed to nuclear weapons bitterly criticized his stance in the document because he turned his back on both nuclear disarmament and nuclear abolition. In the document, he affirmed the “nuclear deterrence theory” and justified nuclear arms. He also completely disregarded the commitment to “abolish nuclear weapons,” as stated in the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, and the Nuclear Weapons Convention signed by 92 nations. Furthermore, the document condemns Russia’s “threat to use nuclear weapons,” China’s “lack of transparency” in building up its nuclear capability, and the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea’s “possession of nuclear weapons and plans to develop nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missiles.” The document treats these three countries as if they are hostile to nuclear disarmament and the campaign against nuclear weapons. At the same time, the document conceals the fact that the U.S.-led imperialist powers have consistently posed a nuclear threat to these three countries many, many times over.

**We must look at the war in Ukraine historically and structurally.**

The war in Ukraine did not begin with Russia’s “special military operation” on February 24, 2022. It began with the military offensive launched by Ukraine’s pro-fascist regime, which seized power in the 2014 “Maidan Revolution,” against Russian-speaking people living in the country’s eastern regions. The attacks escalated over the years. After February 16, 2022, just prior to the Russian invasion of Ukraine, the shelling of residents living in Donbas carried out by the Ukrainian military intensified dramatically.

Viewed in a longer historical context, the current situation in Ukraine can be seen as the culminating event of the war for world domination by the imperialist countries that began after the

collapse of the socialist world system around 1990 and continues to this day. The imperialist countries are attempting to eradicate the existing socialist countries and those countries and forces that oppose imperialism and defend national sovereignty in order to complete their unipolar world domination. After the collapse of the socialist world system, the imperialist countries launched air strikes against Yugoslavia, beginning with the Gulf War, to dismantle the country. The imperialist countries also invaded Afghanistan, Iraq, and Libya. In parallel, the imperialist countries staged a “color revolution” in the former Soviet republics of Eastern Europe. After dismantling or decisively weakening Russia, the imperialist powers plan to invade socialist China and the socialist Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, seeking to dominate both countries. The war in Ukraine is part of that global strategy planned by the imperialists. Therefore, neither the Ukrainian government nor the governments of the imperialist countries have any intention of ending the war in Ukraine. They are planning to drag out the war as long as possible, exhaust Russia thoroughly, and bring down the Putin regime. To this end, the imperialist governments are providing the Zelensky regime with military funding on an unprecedented scale and their own state-of-the-art weapons (fighter jets as well as tanks and missiles). They even provide depleted uranium munitions, which are unquestionably nuclear weapons. They also provide military intelligence obtained through satellites and other means, guide Ukrainian military operations, train Ukrainian soldiers, and mobilize the country’s media to make Russia and Putin look like the “devil.”

The war in Ukraine is a war for world domination that the imperialists are waging in western Eurasia. The imperialists’ plan to create an Asian version of NATO is aimed at encircling China and the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea. It is the embodiment of the imperialists’ global strategy in eastern Eurasia.

But the imperialists do not make war plans because they are strong. They know that their own power is waning, and so they seek to maintain the conventional framework of world

domination by ever more rabid means. The Biden administration is unusually hostile to China because the U.S. imperialists have lost their margin and are impatient. The US-led imperialists, in the face of China's development, the expansion of the BRICS, the growing power of the G20 countries, and the growth of what is called the global south, have seen their influence in the world economy and in international politics decline significantly. In 1980, their GDP accounted for 61% of the total world economy. But, in 2021, it fell to 43%. By 2023, the economies of the seven major emerging economies (China, India, Brazil, Russia, Indonesia, Mexico, and Turkey) are expected to overtake those of the G7 countries. These countries will soon catch up with the West and Japan in military power as well. There is nothing scarier than a cornered beast. The imperialists are desperately trying to maintain their power in the East and West of the world based on their military might while they have the global advantage.

At the same time, they are trying to create divisions among emerging and developing countries and bring them into their own camps. This is why they invited India (chair of the G20), Indonesia (chair of ASEAN), Australia (a member of QUAD), Korea, Cook Islands (chair of the Pacific Islands Forum), Comoros (chair of the African Union), Brazil, and Vietnam to this summit.

### **The Kishida administration is pushing forward with a policy of war.**

As the presidency, the Kishida administration, which led the "war summit," has been successfully launching and implementing policies for war on the domestic front as well. According to media reports, the Kishida administration has implemented the following policies in the past two months.

- \* A Ground Self - Defense Force garrison has been established on Ishigaki Island. (March 16) This follows the deployment of garrisons on Yonaguni Island and Miyako Island. As a result, the GSDF is now deployed in all of the Ryukyu Arc (a chain of Japanese islands that stretch southwest from Kyushu to Taiwan).
- \* The SDF's 300 bases nationwide have been "fortified." (That is, the SDF headquarters will be moved underground, among other things.) The reality of the plan was revealed during deliberations in the Diet in March-April.
- \* A shuttle summit between Japan and South Korea took place. (It took place in Tokyo on March 16, and in Seoul on May 7.) The two countries confirmed that they would strengthen their alliance and that Japan, the U.S., and South Korea would jointly strengthen their nuclear deterrent systems.
- \* At the Constitutional Review Committee of the House of Representatives at the end of March, Japan Restoration Party and the National Democratic Party of Japan submitted a draft article to "extend the term of office of Diet members" in the event of an emergency situation. The LDP also welcomed this draft article. Using this three-party agreement as a breakthrough, they are now plotting to propose amendments to the Constitution. They intend to include a "national defense clause" and a "Self-Defense Forces-related clause" in the Constitution.
- \* Japanese government decided to create Official Security Assistance. It is a framework for the Japanese government to provide defense equipment to the armed forces of "like-minded countries" free of charge. This framework will enable Japan to provide military assistance. Through this framework, the Japanese government could provide military assistance to Ukraine.) (April 5).
- \* The Minister of Defense ordered the Self-Defense Forces to prepare for measures to destroy satellites launched by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. (April 22) PAC-3's were deployed to Yonaguni, Ishigaki, and Miyako islands.
- \* The Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) and New Kōmeitō began discussions to review "The Three Principles on Transfer of Defense Equipment and Technology (Export of Weapons)." (The agenda includes lifting the ban on the export of deadly weapons.) (April 25)

- \* The Japanese government began work on a set of guidelines for controlling the Japan Coast Guard. The guidelines include, among other things, that the Minister of Defense will place the Japan Coast Guard under his own command in the event of an emergency. (April 28)
- \* Deliberations are underway in a hurry on a bill to embody the policies outlined in three documents related to security. A bill to strengthen the military industry passed the House of Representatives on May 9. A bill to secure financial resources to expand the military was passed by the House of Representatives on May 23. It stipulates those 43 trillion yen be raised for military spending over the next five years.
- \* It was revealed that NATO's Secretary General is in talks with the Japanese government to establish a NATO Tokyo Office. (May 11)

It is clear that these moves are in line with the global strategy of Western imperialism, which was confirmed at the Hiroshima summit.

Moves to create a nation capable of war are underway. In the current Diet session, in addition to the security-related bills mentioned above, the Japanese government is attempting to pass a number of reactionary bills, including a bill to revise the Immigration Control and Refugee Recognition Act, a bill to deny the direction of eliminating nuclear power plants and to utilize them (the so-called Green Transformation Draft), and a bill to enforce the My Number Card system. In the local elections held in April and the supplementary elections for the House of Representatives and the House of Councilors,

a number of candidates who would revise the Constitution and candidates of the extreme right were elected overall. The Japan Restoration Party made great strides. On the other hand, the Communist Party, the Social Democratic Party, and other forces advocating anti-war, peace, and defense of the Constitution fell far behind. Joint struggle among the opposition parties has become increasingly difficult. The difficulty can be seen in the remarks of Izumi, the representative of the Constitutional Democratic Party of Japan (DPJ). He stated that the DPJ would not fight co-operating with the Communist Party in the next lower house election. The Cabinet's approval rating is rising. It is quite possible that the Kishida administration will decide to dissolve the Diet and hold a general election while the summit is still in full swing in order to increase the number of Diet members who are willing to deteriorate the Constitution.

We are in the midst of the greatest postwar crisis of peace. We cannot change this critical situation through elections and parliamentary struggles alone. We must work to revitalize the mass movement, to form a political leadership that will lead it, and to encourage more youth to participate in our movement. We must also work toward solutions to various problems and encourage those who are involved in these various movements to work together to oppose any attempt to create a nation capable of war. What we must base our movement on is "activities to unite the peoples of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, China, and Japan." The bourgeois ruling class is most afraid of that activity.

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## **Hiroshima "Peace Memorial Park" and the Pearl Harbor Concluding a sister agreement between the "national memorial parks" is a humiliating folly!**

TAKASHIMA Nobuyoshi, Professor Emeritus, University of Ryukyus

On June 22nd, the city of Hiroshima suddenly announced that it would conclude a sister agreement between Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park

and Pearl Harbor National Memorial Park in Hawaii, USA, in Tokyo, one week later, on June 29. There was a lot of criticism and opposition

to this, but Mayor MATSUI Kazumi forced the conclusion of the agreement.

The strongest point of criticism was that it came as a complete surprise to citizens and the hibakushas (victims of the Atomic bombs). There were no progress reports or question-and-answer sessions at the city council, nor was there any public hearing of the opinions of the citizens, and the proceedings were actually carried out in secret. Moreover, there was no time before the signing date, and it was an arbitrary action on his own authority.

It all started in April this year, when the US Consul General in Osaka and Kobe approached the two parks to sign a sister park agreement, taking advantage of the G7 Hiroshima Summit. After the summit in May, the Consul General made another request to the mayor in June, and it was decided to implement it. During that time, no explanation was given to the citizens or the city assembly, and the citizens were deprived of the opportunity to express their sovereign intentions.

This goes against the principles of the Administrative Procedure Law (enacted in 1994), which stipulates administrative decision-making. The law aims to “ensure fairness and improve transparency in administrative management, thereby contributing to the protection of the rights and interests of the people, by ensuring that the content and process of administrative decision-making are clear to the public.” It is clearly stated in its Article 1 (Purpose, etc.). This law regulates the administrative actions of government agencies, and stipulates so-called public comments (procedures for soliciting public opinions). “According to the purpose of the provisions of this law, we must strive to take necessary measures to ensure fairness and improve transparency in administrative management” (revised in 2007). In the case of Hiroshima City, in response to this provision, the Hiroshima City Administrative Procedure Ordinance (enforced in 1995) has been formulated. It is clear that the mayor’s arbitrariness this time is against the purpose of these regulations.

Moreover, the two are not evenly matched.

Mayor Matsui visited the US Embassy in Tokyo to sign the agreement. Considering that it was the United States that made the request, it would make sense to sign the treaty in Hiroshima. If the mayor of Hiroshima went out of his way to visit the US embassy, which has extraterritoriality, it would be as if he had been summoned by the US side. In addition, the general public is not allowed to attend, and media coverage is subject to US standards such as strict restrictions on the number of people and property inspections. Moreover, the US Ambassador to Japan, Rahm Emanuel, signed on behalf of the Hawaii park manager. It is a form that looks down on the Japanese side and shows little respect for the citizens of Hiroshima. It was a form of “dependent diplomacy”. Mayor Matsui’s words and deeds, which accepted such a humiliating signing ceremony, do not seem to show the pride of the citizens of Hiroshima. The responsibility of the city officials who did not object to the mayor’s words and actions during this time is also heavy.

#### **Participating in the theory of justifying the dropping of atomic bombs**

Many problems have been pointed out also regarding the purpose and content of the agreement itself. Hiroshima City describes the purpose of the agreement as follows. “The partnership between the two parks, which are related to the places where the war began and ended, will endure the sorrows of the past, overcome the hatred, and serve as a future-oriented bridge for peace and reconciliation.”

Positioning the two parks as “the places where the war began and ended” is affirming the American claim that “the war ended with the dropping of atomic bombs.” There is absolutely no view that the dropping of the atomic bombs was to show the power of nuclear weapons in the face of the post-war confrontation between East and West, and that it forced Japan, which was bound to lose the war, to make unnecessary sacrifices.

Furthermore, the fact that the war began at Pearl Harbor means that Hiroshima is turning a blind eye to the fact that Japan had previously

invaded Asia. In particular, Hiroshima was treated favorably as a military city during the war, and Ujina Port in the city was a base for dispatching troops to the invaded territories. Even that fact seems to be trying to be erased from history in the name of future orientation.

### Fixing the distorted perception of war

In the 1991 Hiroshima Peace Declaration stating, “Japan caused great suffering and sorrow to the people of the Asia-Pacific region through its former colonial rule and wars. We are sorry for that” was highly praised by the people of Asia. However, after Mayor HIRAOKA Takashi stepped down after two terms, the phrase disappeared from the declaration, disappointing neighboring countries. On the contrary, it also created a sense of distrust, saying, “Was it a lip service for the 1994 Asian Games in Hiroshima?”

The city of Hiroshima has stated that “an apology for the invasion should be done by the national government, not the responsibility of a local city.” Conversely, however, there is a deep-rooted opinion among Asians that “this is not a responsibility that should be borne solely by the state.”

In addition, the Japanese foreign aggressions since the Meiji era were deeply related to the policy of directing dissatisfaction due to the establishment of domestic discriminatory structures to overseas, and the spread of discriminatory ethnic views against Asian people. Hiroshima, which was a military base for aggression in Asia, was near the top of the regional discrimination structure in Japan, which was dyed by militarism of the time. Such a critical viewpoint is necessary because Okinawa, which has been placed at the bottom of regional discrimination, and Hiroshima cannot be treated on the same level. However, postwar Japanese society has ignored to structurally elucidate the wartime posture and recognize individual war responsibilities.

In the peace movement and peace education, there is a general trend that it is enough if the awareness of the denial of war spreads by digging up the sacrifices and tragic experiences of

the common people.

Recently, Asian researchers have also expressed the perception of war that falls into self-satisfaction at the stage of rising victim consciousness as “victim consciousness nationalism.” Attempts have been made to overcome such perceptions, but their effectiveness is still limited. On the other hand, there is also a growing tendency to focus on the superficial similarity of war damage and link the experiences of the Great Tokyo Air Raids and the atomic bombing with the tragedy of Auschwitz. The Western countries naturally recognize. There is no recognition that “Japan is a society of perpetrators such as Auschwitz and the Anne Frank family,” which is natural and common recognition in the Western countries.

If we place phenomena with different qualities on the same line with the superficial commonalities of war damage, we will lose sight of the structure of the war, and the responsibility for the war will be lost. Postwar Japanese society has not got out of from such a curse. In the proposal from the US side this time, we can read their own ingenuity in seeing through such irrational trends in Japan. Using the “G7 Hiroshima Vision” as a pretense, it is a scheme that saw it as a good opportunity to bring to Hiroshima the line of avoidance of responsibility for the dropping of the atomic bomb and affirmation of nuclear deterrence theory. The mayor of Hiroshima is not the only one to blame.

It was in 2006 that former Prime Minister NAKASONE Yasuhiro lamented the trend of “emotional democracy” in Japanese society. Unless this trend is corrected, the recurrence of similar situations is inevitable.

However, movements aimed at establishing “rational democracy” continue unabated. In Hiroshima’s activities aiming at the abolition of nuclear weapons, they have investigated discrimination against Koreans and Chinese at the time, and has also tackled the issue of relief for those people who were exposed to the atomic bombing. Many people say that it was comic story “Barefoot Gen” that made people realize the need for such efforts.

The descriptions of “Barefoot Gen” and the Daigo Fukuryū Maru (F/V Lucky Dragon 5) were deleted in the process of revising the “Hiroshima Peace Note”, a supplementary school teaching material produced by the Hiroshima City Board of Education. It was around February this year that it became clear and the debate started. It was a time when drafts of the “G7 Hiroshima Vision” for the “Hiroshima Summit” were being boiled down. Hibakushas have harshly criticized for their “disappointment” in that the “vision” is a theory of nuclear disarmament that accepts the theory of nuclear deterrence rather than the abolition of nuclear weapons. On the other hand, in the supplementary teaching materials, “Towards the abolition of nuclear weapons” in the previous edition’s “Learning Objectives” was secretly rewritten as “Towards nuclear disarmament” in the revised edition (for junior high school students). At present, in schools in Hiroshima City, a shift in peace studies is being quietly and surely taking place that will shift the focus of attention to nuclear disarmament rather than nuclear abolition.

In the midst of discussions over changes in the basic stance of supplementary teaching materials, Hiroshima City explained the significance of the sister agreement as follows. “As the first step toward the realization of the ‘Hiroshima Vision for G7 Leaders on Nuclear Disarmament,’ it will contribute to fostering momentum.”

The basic principle of Hiroshima’s “Peace Memorial Park” is the abolition of nuclear weapons, which cannot be changed at the discretion of the then prime minister or mayor. The city of Hiroshima is ignoring its basic ideology under the guise of a performance that masquerades as “the first step toward realizing the ‘Hiroshima Vision,’” which recognizes the possession of nuclear weapons by major powers through the theory of nuclear deterrence. If this situation continues, Hiroshima may be included in the publicity strategy of the United States’ nuclear arms policy.

### **New discrimination against Okinawa**

There are still problems. One is that the city of Hiroshima does not appear to have conducted a field survey before concluding the agreement. As evidence of this, even now, Hiroshima City has not been able to publish materials or park maps showing the overall picture of “Pearl Harbor National Memorial Park.” As guided by the US, it was an unequal administrative act that proceeded while being caught in the cue. This is also humiliating.

Besides, if they did a field survey, they should have noticed that the park is an integral part of the US Navy base and is a place for military publicity and propaganda. A typical example is the exhibition hall for the submarine USS Bowfin, which is not included in the park but has no border fence. Visitors to the Arizona Memorial, which is the main exhibit of the park, are guided to the same ship exhibition hall on their way back. The visitors, who were strongly impressed by the heavy casualties caused by the “cowardly” surprise attack, are deeply moved by the display of the many Japanese flags indicating the number of Japanese warships sunk by the Bowfin afterwards, to increase the favorability of the US Navy. You can only understand the structure of such a tour route by experiencing it.

One of the Japanese flags proudly painted on the hull of the Bowfin is the Okinawa school-child evacuation ship “Tsushima Maru”. You can also confirm that the staff at the exhibition hall is familiar with this fact by directly asking questions on site.

If they had done a field survey, they must have noticed these facts. But the city of Hiroshima skipped that essential step. As a result, the Okinawan people, including the bereaved families of the victims of the Tsushima Maru, were rubbed salt on the wounds in their hearts. Hiroshima, the “mainland” under the Japan-US Security Treaty, has done a new type of regional discrimination against Okinawa.

Mayor Matsui, who neglected to collect information and gave priority to political speculation, left an indelible stain on Hiroshima’s administration.



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## The extremely dangerous proposal to abolish time limit for nuclear power plant operation

### What is the actual state of aging nuclear power plants from technical perspective?

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#### Extending operation of aging nuclear power plants is dangerous

The KISHIDA Fumio Cabinet's "return to nuclear power" policy is reckless and extremely dangerous. In this article, introduced is the technological problem of how dangerous it is to operate an aging nuclear power plant.

Let's look at the whole picture first. Kishida's proposal for returning to nuclear power generation consists of two points: (1) abolishing the 40-year operating limit and enabling nuclear power plants to operate for more than 60 years, and (2) advancing research and development of advanced reactors with the aim of commercializing them. Of these, the contents of the advanced reactors in (2) are all things that have already been seen, such as high-temperature gas-cooled reactors, small modular reactors, and nuclear fusion, which are technically or economically unlikely to be realized.

The one that has the greatest impact is (1) the abolishment of operating deadlines. In the 2012 amendment to the Nuclear Reactor Regulation Law, the "40 years in principle, (exceptionally) up to 20 years only once" was introduced as part of safety measures for the reactors. The aim is to remove the rule of "operation extension" from the Reactor Regulation Law, and to transfer it to the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI), saying it as part of the utilization policy, and remove the limitation on the operation period. It goes against the philosophy of the Nuclear Regulation Authority (NRA), which was established in 2012 based on the lessons learned from the Fukushima nuclear accident. It cannot but be said that Chairman YAMANAKA Shinsuke has voluntarily abandoned the role of the NRA.

Furthermore, the "GX decarbonized power source bill" is currently being submitted to the Diet together with the "GX promotion bill" (new law) that establishes the basic framework of GX (Green Transformation). It should be called a "nuclear power promotion bill" that bundles five laws related to nuclear power. The five bills to revise the Electricity Business Law, the Renewable Energy Special Measures Law, the Nuclear Reactor Regulation Law, the Reprocessing Contribution Law, and the Atomic Energy Basic Law are all to be deliberated and enacted. What is particularly problematic is that it includes amendment to the Atomic Energy Basic Law, which is a superordinate law to the Reactor Regulation Law. It clearly reflects the METI's intention to fundamentally change nuclear policy. While the public is vacillating, a major shift in nuclear policy is about to take place under the (false) slogan of global warming prevention and decarbonization.

In the draft amendment to the Atomic Energy Basic Law, a new clause was added, titled "State Responsibility." The government will be responsible for engagement to the security of credibility to the nuclear power generation and promotion of business at the plant site regions by providing fund and favored treatments. By including this kind of responsibility in the Basic Law, the government blatantly seeks to rescue the nuclear industry, which would otherwise collapse.

Against this background, efforts are being made to prolong the life of aging nuclear power plants. Then, what does aging mean technically, and what kind of dangers will arise if the plants are allowed to operate for more than 40 years?

## Reality of Uncontrollable Aging Nuclear Power Plants

Not only nuclear power plants, but all industrial products get old. In a nuclear power plant, in addition to corrosion and fatigue of metal members such as stainless steel, thinning of pipes, deterioration of electrical cable insulation, deterioration of concrete, the neutron irradiation embrittlement of pressure vessel steel, deterioration unique to nuclear power plants, cannot be avoided.

It must be remembered first that many of the nuclear power plants were designed to operate for up to 40 years (some up to 30 years). Materials were selected on the premise that it would run for 40 years, and equipment, piping, electrical cables, concrete buildings, etc. were installed.

Such deterioration over time is particularly frequent at the aged plants around 40 years after start of operation. For example, at Reactor 3 of the Oi Nuclear Power Plant, Fukui Prefecture, stress corrosion cracking was found, since 2020, due to improper welding of stainless steel pipes of the primary system. A control rod fall accident occurred in 2023 at Reactor 4 of the Takahama Nuclear Power Plant, Fukui Pref., when the power cable was desoldered and broken, to cause the rod fall. It was reportedly due to unexpected weight on the cable by error in construction. Both of the two cases are due to the combination of construction errors and aged deterioration.

At the Takahama Plant Reactor 1, which has been in operation for 40 years, the brittleness transition temperature of the monitoring specimen has reached 99°C, which means that deterioration has progressed remarkably. In addition, the fracture toughness value has also decreased to the limit of whether or not it can withstand pressurized thermal shock.

The steel material of the reactor pressure vessel is exposed to neutrons emitted from the reactor core during nuclear fission, and gradually loses the toughness peculiar to metal and becomes brittle. A test piece is put in the furnace for

monitoring, and it is taken out periodically to check the deterioration state, but the test piece is only for 40 years. In order to make up for the shortfall, we are planning to use recycled test pieces. A regenerated test piece is obtained by cutting out an unused portion of a used test piece and welding tabs to both sides of the cut piece. This is because the original inspection area is narrow. Therefore, it is rationalized that the heat-affected zone need not be inspected.

As described above, the regulations of the Japan Electric Association (JEAC) that stipulate the implementation method of the monitoring test are not perfect. These regulations, established by the Association, which is mainly composed of power companies, and approved by the government, are permeated with the idea that they can only do what they can, and are riddled with loopholes. According to this rule, a fracture toughness test is to be carried out for each monitoring test, but at Takahama No. 1 and No. 2 reactors, and Mihama No. 3, only the base material or the weld metal has been tested. This shoddy inspection was revealed for the first time by the request for disclosure in the lawsuit in Nagoya to demand decommissioning the nuclear power plant after 40 years of operation. The person in charge of the Nuclear Regulation Agency says that it is okay as it does not violate the regulations.

There are many other questions about JEAC4201 and JEAC4206, the regulations for monitoring the embrittlement of reactor pressure vessels established by the Japan Electric Association. The author's group raising the lawsuit to demand decommissioning after 40 years is demanding that they should be abolished on the grounds that safety cannot be ensured by them. The authors submitted a written opinion to this trial and analyzed the errors in these regulations in detail.

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\*The author's group published end April 2023 "*Genpatsu no Rōkyūka wa konoyōni - Atsuryokuyōki no Chūseishi-shōsha Zeijakuka wo chūshin ni*" ("Thus the Nuke Plants Are Aging - The embrittlement of nuclear power reactor

vessel by neutron irradiation in the main”)(Published by Citizen’s Nuclear Information Center,

and distributed by AGNE Gijutsu Center Inc.)

## Worker’s report

# Teachers’ unions in Kanagawa held the symposium on “the work reform”

## The “right to strike” is demanded

FUJIWARA Akira (School worker)

The motto “Work style reform” must have been created to obscure “shortening working hours, raising wages, and improving the working environment,” and to cozy up to the “productivity improvement” (i.e., increasing the rate of exploitation of the capitalist class) movement. But we use this motto even though we know such things. This situation also shows the difficulty of the Japanese labor movement today.

The working class is faced with a choice between two options. One is to allow the working class to use the slogan “Work style reform” without realizing it, thereby increasing the rate of exploitation of the capitalist class. The other is for the working class to consciously use the motto to realize its own demands.

### Young Teachers Participated.

On June 18, “Symposium for Work Style Reform 2023” was held at the Yokohama Municipal Education Center under the auspices of the Kanagawa Prefecture Council of Teachers’ Unions (Kanagawa Prefecture Teachers’ Union, Yokohama City Teachers’ Union, Kawasaki City Teachers’ Union, Senior High School Teachers’ Union of Kanagawa Prefecture). The keynote report was presented by Prof. YUFU Sawako of the Graduate School of Education, Waseda University. Panelists were SENOO Masatoshi (education researcher), SHIMASAKI Chikara (lawyer and secretary of Anti-Poverty Network Kanagawa), and YOSHIDA Koji (professor at Tokai University). About 500 people attended. In particular, many young elementary and junior high school teachers in their 20s and 30s participated.

Educational activities in schools are so demanding that the number of people who want to become teachers is declining. Looking at the educational activities in schools, there is no indication that “Work style reform” is underway. Even if teachers’ overwork is somewhat reduced, it only makes the learning environment worse for students and forces families to make up for the learning. “Act on Special Measures concerning Salaries and Other Working Conditions of Education Personnel at Public Compulsory Education Schools” (or “Law to Reduce Teachers’ Overtime Pay to Zero”) has been raised as a social issue, and the Japan Teachers’ Union is advocating for “repeal or overhaul of the Act.” However, it has not exercised its power. Then, in May, the government and the Liberal Democratic Party submitted a “review plan” of that law to the Diet. However, the proposal did not change the “Law to Reduce Teachers’ Overtime Pay to Zero,” but raised the “additional wage rate for education employees” from the current 4% to 10%, about the same level as the consumption tax. That is a misrepresentation of the “review” of the Act. They also seek to further reinforce their discriminatory wage structure by raising the allowances for teachers who are in charge as homeroom teachers and serving as head teachers.

This meeting was planned with the intention of sending out a message of resistance to the present situation from Kanagawa. However, we can only propose a rally and a signature-collecting campaign at this meeting. These are not enough to repeal the Act on Special Measures concerning Salaries and Other Working Conditions of Education Personnel at Public Compulsory Education Schools. To repeal that law, the struggle

must surpass the previous struggle against Teachers' Performance Evaluation Act. The Japan Teachers' Union does not have the strength to do so. Nevertheless, I would like to take the opportunity of these important issues being discussed in society to create a movement to win back the right to strike for teachers and to restore the idea that trade union members can strike, even if only a little.

This rally was jointly organized by teachers' unions in Kanagawa Prefecture. The establishment of such a joint relationship is both groundbreaking and important. However, I did not have high expectations for this rally. I thought that the rally would be nothing more than a bunch of professors, lawyers, and pundits talking about the disastrous state of educational conditions in the schools and analyzing the various problems. I also believed that the proposal at the rally would be an attempt to strengthen the struggle in Congress and not a plan to raise teachers' awareness of themselves as workers. I coldly believed that the most important topics would not be discussed at such a rally.

#### **The lecturer's remarks were loudly applauded.**

Yufu's keynote report was interesting, with a detailed analysis of the current situation and a well-organized speech. I did, however, think that the most important themes that should have been discussed were not covered in her speech. Lawyer Shimasaki mentioned the role of labor unions, and I thought he might address some important topics. Several questions were raised by the audience. One junior high school teacher asked, "Through your lectures, I understood that there are many problems and contradictions. What do you think we should do about it?" In response to this question, Ms. Yufu said

that she shared Mr. Shimasaki's opinion, and that a strike by school workers was necessary. None of the "three rights guaranteed by labor law" (the right to organize, the right to collective bargaining, and the right to dispute) can be separated. Workers can protect their rights by securing those three rights. In Japan, however, workers are deprived of this. Globally, in many countries, as in Japan, the educational environment in schools is harsh. However, what makes these countries different from Japan is that teachers go on strike. Even in these countries, teachers are accused of by some people. They say "Do not abandon the education of the children." However, unless teachers' working conditions are secured, children's right to learn cannot be guaranteed. Teachers should express their opposition to what is wrong and campaign against it. By showing this attitude to children, teachers can fulfill their purpose of "fostering the formation of a democratic society" (Fundamental Law of Education). By not showing such an attitude, teachers reassure Japan's ruling class (this expression was not used at the meeting). The participants applauded this statement by a lecturer.

Whether the organizers or the presenters intended it or not, the fact that the right of Japanese public school workers to strike has still not been guaranteed since it was stripped 75 years ago was clearly criticized. The need to guarantee the right to strike was confirmed by the more than 500 school workers (including many young workers) who attended the rally. I was strongly encouraged by their attitudes.

(SHISO-UNDO No.1090, JULY 1, 2023)

## The plan of stationing the landing craft unit at Yokohama North Dock We oppose to make it a military base which threatens the rights of the peaceful lives!

HOSHINO Kiyoshi (Editorial office of Rimpeace and part-time lecturer of the university)

At the Japan-U.S. Security Consultative Committee (2+2) meeting (Ministerial meeting of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Defense) held on January 11 this year, it was agreed that “13 ships and about 280 personnel” of the “US Army Light Amphibious Landing Craft Utility Troops” would be newly incorporated at the Yokohama North Dock.

The plan to station Amphibious Landing Craft Utility Troops there was suddenly announced. To begin with, the Yokohama North Dock is a U.S. military base in the middle of the Port of Yokohama. Its construction began in 1921 as a wharf for foreign trade. The dock was called Mizuho Pier at the time. After the war, the U.S. military seized the dock. Since then, the U.S. military has been using that port facility as a U.S. military base.

The 1972 “Struggle to Prevent Tanks from Leaving Yokohama North Dock” was a struggle to prevent tanks repaired at the Sagami General Depot from being shipped out of Yokohama North Dock to Vietnam.

Between August 2002 and September 2004, many Landing Craft Utilities (LCU) materials, including 10 Landing Craft Utilities (LCU) vessels, were brought into Yokohama North Dock and stockpiled there. It was one of the bases for the U.S. Army’s pre-positioned stocks of war materials around the world. (Army pre-positioned stocks)

When the war materials were brought in, many feared that they would make permanent and enhance the U.S. military base in Yokohama. The U.S. military responded to these fears through the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs as follows. “They are unmanned Landing Craft Utilities storage facilities, and there are no plans to deploy units to operate them. Nor will they be operational.” In fact, however, the U.S. military did not keep its word. The U.S. military has sent

a transport unit to its docks and has almost always operated about two LCU’s. The U.S. military has also used materials for other LCU operations in exercises. In recent years, the U.S. military has changed its stockpile of materials. The U.S. military has completely reneged on its promise to us and plans to station Landing Craft Utility Troops at its docks. This plan is closely related to the realignment of the Marine Corps stationed in Okinawa.

At the Japan-U.S. Security Consultative Committee (2+2) meeting, it was also agreed that the 12th Marine Regiment stationed in Okinawa would be reorganized as the “12th Marine Littoral Regiment (MLR).” The MLR is the core unit for implementing Expeditionary Advanced Based Operations (EABO), a new operational concept for the U.S. Marine Corps.

EABO is a concept in which temporary Expeditionary Advanced Bases (EAB) are constructed on islands in Nansei islands (southwestern islands off Kyushu and in the Okinawan archipelago), and relatively small units equipped with various capabilities such as anti-ship and anti-aircraft missiles are dispersed and deployed, and these units conduct combat operations while moving about. To implement this concept, Landing Craft Utilities would be needed to transport MLR units and equipment to each base (islands). However, the Marine Corps and the Navy do not currently have suitable craft for this purpose. There is an initiative to develop such a craft, though.

For these reasons, it can be inferred that the U.S. Army plans to use the Army’s Landing Craft Utilities at the Yokohama North Dock as the MLR’s means of transportation at this time. It is true that the Army and the Marine Corps are different organizations. However, the U.S. military operates a regional “Joint Force” that encompasses the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marine Corps. The Army’s LCU’s frequently

conduct joint training with the Marines.

In recent years, the U.S. Army has also trained LCU's to carry Ground Self-Defense Force combat vehicles and other vehicles. The SDF's budget includes funding for LCU's. The GSDF may be planning to use EABO's.

However, the U.S. Army's LCU is an older "Runnymede-class landing craft" ordered in the late 1980's. It is not clear whether its performance is compatible with EABO.

However, deploying troops based on EABO, a "new" war concept that will make the Southwestern islands and other Japanese islands into a battlefield, is a dangerous act that will increase military tension, endanger the local population, and threaten the peaceful right to life of citizens. We must not allow any place, including the Port of Yokohama, to become a base for such a war.

(SHISO-UNDO No.1088, MAY 1, 2023)

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