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Special Issue January

Speech at the New Year assembly at the JCP head office

**90th anniversary of its foundation - Record new
page in JCP's history by learning and utilizing
lessons from the past**

Shii Kazuo

JCP Executive Committee Chair

January 4, 2012

Shii in New Year message calls for further JCP advancement in 2012 marking 90th anniversary of its foundation

January 4, 2012

Japanese Communist Party Chair Shii Kazuo delivered a speech at the New Year assembly at the JCP head office in Tokyo on January 4, calling on all members to make efforts to further party advancement in 2012, the 90th anniversary of party foundation. He said:

I'd like to send my heartfelt greetings to all party members on the occasion of our New Year gathering. I'd also like to express my warm solidarity with those who are working hard to assist in the areas damaged by the 3.11 disaster and the nuclear accident and who are working tirelessly to provide support to the victims. I express my determination to cooperate in making the utmost effort to restore disaster victims' hometowns if possible so they can live without anxiety.

This year marks the 90th anniversary of the JCP founding in 1922. At the beginning of this memorable year, let's confirm our determination to build a strong JCP and to achieve major progress in the next general election.

Record new page in JCP's history by learning and utilizing lessons from the past

First is to record a new page in the JCP's history by studying and utilizing the lessons gained from the past.

When I reflect on the party's 90 year-history, I keenly realize that the JCP has continuously confronted difficult challenges. The party at times made mistakes, but I can proudly say that the JCP bravely overcame every challenge to work in defense of peace, democracy, and people's lives. I want to point out that the JCP obtained "three treasures" through its struggles.

The first is the JCP struggles in the prewar period in which JCP members risked their lives to oppose the despotic rule of the Tenno (Emperor) and the war of aggression, and to call for peace and people's sovereignty.

During the period of time before the Pacific War broke out, political parties other than the JCP dissolved themselves, and joined together to push for the war of aggression. Many JCP members were killed for their beliefs by the Tenno government. However, the JCP's inimitable pioneer spirit in its struggles eventually overcame the oppression.

This treasure was gained in combination with the JCP founding spirit of "working to reduce people's hardships." After the earthquake and tsunami hit north-east Japan on March 11, many JCP members worked hard utilizing this spirit and earned the trust of many disaster victims. In the prefectural assembly elections in Iwate, Miyagi, and Fukushima, the total number of JCP seats increased to 11 from the previous 6. An

independent local assemblyman said, “The JCP provided support to those who had no access to support from local authorities. No other party has the grassroots-based organizational strength of the JCP.” A Liberal Democratic Party executive member said, “At times of national crisis like the 3.11 disaster, the JCP shows a strong presence and commitment to working hard selflessly. Only the JCP has such a presence among Japanese political parties.” This JCP presence has continued to expand through the party’s experiences accumulated from the prewar period.

The second is the effort to overcome the party’s greatest crisis, the so-called “1950 Problem,” through which the JCP established its course enabling sovereign independence, in which each nation can steer its own course in its revolutionary transition by disallowing the interference and hegemony of big powers.