

# Japan Press Weekly

JAPAN PRESS  
SERVICE

SEND AGAYA 4-25-6, SHIBUYA-KU, TOKYO 151-0051, JAPAN  
Telephone: +81-3-3423-2381, Fax: +81-3-3423-2383  
e-mail: INFO@japan-press.co.jp  
URL: <http://www.japan-press.co.jp>

ISSN  
0287-7112

Special issue - July 2007

## 2007 House of Councilors Election

### **JCP IS THE ONLY 'RELIABLE OPPOSITION PARTY' THAT DEFENDS LIVING CONDITIONS AND PEACE**

*The Japanese Communist Party Manifesto*

*The Japanese Communist Party has published its election policies for the upcoming House of Councilors election (July 29) focusing on putting an end to the recklessness of Prime Minister Abe Shinzo's government that is destroying people's living conditions and going against peace. (Page 2)*

### **END POVERTY, DEFEND THE CONSTITUTION'S ARTICLE 9**

*JCP Chair Shii speaks at the Foreign Correspondents' Club of Japan*

Japanese Communist Party Executive Committee Chair Shii Kazuo on July 3 spoke at the Foreign Correspondents' Club of Japan in Tokyo to explain how the JCP is waging the House of Councilors election and respond to questions.  
(Page 14)

## **JAPANESE COMMUNIST PARTY MANIFESTO**

### **We are the only ‘Reliable Opposition Party’ Defending People’s Living Conditions and Peace**

1

The House of Councilors election will be held soon. The Koizumi Cabinet has been replaced by Prime Minister ABE Shinzo’s cabinet. People’s living conditions, in particular hardships related to cutbacks in welfare services and the worsening employment situation, are getting more and more serious. The new Cabinet has been very reckless with its policies opposing peace and democracy.

The JCP will call on the voters to stop the coalition of the Liberal Democratic Party and the Komei Party from continuing with policies that undermine people’s living conditions and peace.

“Poverty and social disparities” are found everywhere in our society, in which an increasing number of people have difficulty supporting their own lives even with a job. The fixed-rate tax cuts have been abolished. A substantial residential tax increase has been imposed. Medical and nursing-care insurance programs have been adversely reformed. The government’s irresponsible mismanagement of the national pension system has left many pension records unidentified. These are problems that make many people feel uneasy about making plans for their future. In stark contrast, large corporations, the business sector, and a handful of wealthy people are enjoying the largest ever profits and gains in wealth that are even larger than those that they amassed in the bubble economy, boasting of an “economic boom that is even longer than the 57-month boom in the second half of the 1960s.” The Japan Business Federation (Nippon Keidanren) is still demanding more corporate tax breaks and a further consumption tax increase. If the LDP-Komei government led by Prime Minister Abe continues to stay in power, every effort made by the working people to improve their living conditions could come to nothing.

We cannot stand for the recklessness of the Abe Cabinet concerning the questions of peace and democracy. Prime Minister Abe has publicly pledged to have the Constitution revised during his tenure in office and made clear that he will put it forward as a major issue in the House of Councilors election. The recent Ordinary Session of the Diet enacted the bill to establish procedures for holding a referendum on constitutional revision in disregard of strong opposition. The Liberal Democratic Party and other parties are planning to have the Diet initiate in 2010 a process of revising the Constitution. The Abe Cabinet for now intends to change the government interpretation of the Constitution so as to enable Japan to use force in situations that have nothing to do with Japan’s security. These moves are being prompted by the U.S. intention to drag Japan onto the path of war under its preemptive attack strategy on a global scale. Prime Minister Abe advocates that Japan should maintain the alliance bound by blood with the United States and openly states that the aim of the constitutional revision is to have Japan fight in wars abroad with the United States.

To make matters worse, the forces that are neglectful of the people's well-being and are rushing to revise the Constitution are led by a group of supporters of the Yasukuni Shrine interpretation of history that describes Japan's past war of aggression as a "just war" and Japan before and during World War II as a "beautiful country" despite its aggression abroad and state of militarism within the country. In fact, Prime Minister Abe's statement that "military comfort women" were not coerced into having sex with Japanese soldiers and his making an offering to Yasukuni Shrine was taken as having the same meaning as his official worship at the shrine.

Recently, it has been revealed that the Self-Defense Forces' intelligence security unit on a daily basis has been monitoring people's movements that are critical of the government and the SDF, in flagrant violation of the Constitution and its defense of basic human rights.

Those forces that refuse to admit that Japan was wrong in carrying out the war of aggression are now seeking to establish a Constitution that will enable Japan to fight wars abroad again. If the military apparatus that keeps the public under surveillance is recognized as a constitutional military force reigning over the people, it will mean a revival of militarism under which Japan will become a country terrified by people worldwide as well as the Japanese themselves.

The Komei Party is the Abe government's coalition partner helping to neglect the well-being of the people and carry out reckless policies. Eight years have passed since the Komei Party joined with the Liberal Democratic Party in a coalition government in 1999. During this period, the Japanese people have been forced to pay an extra 13 trillion yen in taxes. A typical family of four will be asked to pay an extra 400 thousand yen a year. This includes a massive tax increase due to the abolition of the fixed-rate tax cuts, a measure that was enthusiastically called for by the Komei Party. The tax increase now has repercussions for the whole country. A newspaper correctly likened the Komei Party to "war criminals".

In the adverse revision of the Fundamental Law of Education and the enactment of the law to establish procedures for constitutional amendments, the Komei Party's role was indispensable. It was behind the bill to upgrade the Defense Agency to a ministry and the bill to adversely revise the Fundamental Law of Education in exchange for the passage of "improvement in the allowance for dependent children," which it touts as its own achievement. A national newspaper editorial at the time described the trade as irrelevant, citing Komei's use of party politics.

However, the Komei Party proclaims itself to be the "party for welfare" or the "party for peace". It has deceived the public into accepting adverse government policies by falsely depicting them as good policies. Pretending to put brakes on reckless LDP government policies, the Komei Party is in fact helping to accelerate them. This represents the Komei Party's reactionary *raison d'être*.

What is more, the Komei Party has for years been brazen about its relationship with Soka Gakkai as one that represents the “unity of politics and religion.” Soka Gakkai came under fire in 1970 when it tried to suppress the freedom of speech and the press by interfering with publication of a critical book about Soka Gakkai. Following this incident, IKEDA Daisaku, Soka Gakkai president at the time, said he “deeply regretted” it and this was taken as his promise that Soka Gakkai would practice the “separation of religion and politics.” But in its review of the March-April simultaneous local election campaign, Soka Gakkai has not only praised the election of all Komei Party candidates as its victory, it has gone as far as to threaten Komei members of local assemblies by saying that they must not forget that they were elected thanks to Soka Gakkai’s efforts.

The pro-Yasukuni forces who refuse to show remorse over the past Japanese war of aggression and the Komei Party and Soka Gakkai forming a unity of politics and religion to assist in the promotion of undemocratic policies make up the worst form of alliance promoting adverse policies.

2

Another key issue in the upcoming House of Councilors election is choosing a party capable of leading an effective offensive against the LDP-Komei government led by Prime Minister Abe. The present focus of media attention is on the “two major parties,” indicating that a confrontation between the LDP and the DPJ is what the coming election is all about.

The Democratic Party is trying hard to stage its “confrontation” with the LDP. However, the policy line that has been followed by the DPJ is indistinguishable from the LDP line. In dealing with economic issues, it has been an advocate of “structural reforms.” It supported easing regulations under the labor laws. It supported adverse revision of the nursing care insurance law. It called for cutbacks in public assistance to dependent children of mother-child families as well as tax breaks for large corporations. The DPJ supported legislation to upgrade the Defense Agency to a ministry and to establish a provision to make overseas dispatches of Self-Defense Forces a permanent SDF function. The enacted law to establish procedures for amending the Constitution was precisely what the DPJ had been calling for. The DPJ is the same as the LDP in taking the position that the Japan-U.S. military alliance should be maintained and even strengthened. It has also kept in step with the LDP in its call for the Constitution to be revised. Its view on the question of “exercising the right of collective self-defense” is no different from the LDP’s. The DPJ includes many politicians who are pro-Yasukuni Shrine, who insist that “military comfort women were non-existent,” and who affirm and even praise Japan’s past war of aggression.

The fact that the DPJ shares the LDP position is clear from its relationship with the Japan Business Federation (Nippon Keidanren). In drafting its policies, the DPJ holds discussion with Nippon Keidanren to have its policy proposals assessed and receives donations in accordance with the assessment. The DPJ is unable to understand the real needs of the people and it competes with the ruling parties for the most undemocratic policies.

In the election, we will emphasize that increasing the number of seats of the most reliable opposition party, the JCP, is the surest way to stop the LDP-Komei government of Prime Minister Abe from continuing the reckless policies that disregard the needs of the people and destroy peace and democracy.

We will secure JCP seats to stop the LDP-Komei government of Prime Minister Abe.

JCP seats in the Diet are the surest way to stop the LDP-Komei government under Prime Minister Abe from continuing to run wild, contrary to the people's interests. The root cause of growing poverty and social disparities is the policy serving the interests of large corporations. Unless this policy is corrected, the general public will not become free of anxieties about their living conditions.

The Japanese government's zeal for fighting wars abroad arises from its subservience to the United States that makes Japan bound by its military alliance with the United States. The pro-Yasukuni Shrine forces, which justify the past Japanese war of aggression and colonial rule, are promoting this dangerous move, which can be thwarted only by increasing the number of JCP seats in the Diet because the JCP is the only party that has been consistent in advocating peace, democracy and people's sovereignty since the prewar days.

JCP seats in the Diet are essential for putting up opposition to the adverse policies promoted jointly by the ruling LDP-Komei coalition and the opposition DPJ

In 2006, the Defense Agency was upgraded to a ministry, and the Self-Defense Forces' overseas missions were also upgraded to a permanent main task. The LDP, Komei, and DPJ bulldozed these legislative measures through the Diet. In this year's Ordinary Session of the Diet, the law to establish procedures for revising the Constitution (the national referendum law) was enacted. The ruling parties and the opposition DPJ together promoted the bill. The bill that was enacted was "almost in line with the DPJ proposal" as former DPJ President MAEHARA Seiji stated. The DPJ also joined together with the ruling parties for the labor law reform aimed at deregulating the labor market. In order to effectively fight against the adverse political aims of the LDP and the DPJ, we need to secure JCP seats in the Diet.

The JCP uses its strength in the Diet in cooperation with grassroots movements to influence national politics by putting forward the demands of the people. With its 9 seats in the House of Councilors and 9 seats in the House of Representatives, the JCP has been instrumental in influencing national politics in cooperation with popular movements at the grassroots level. It has succeeded in forcing companies to pay 85.2 billion yen in back pay for forced overtime work without pay. This was made possible because the JCP, in cooperation with movements at places of work, repeatedly brought up the issue in the Diet. As a result, the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare issued

the directive urging employers to end the use of forced overtime work without pay. We also took up workers' suffering from exploitation using "contract labor" in disguise, and won their direct employment.

JCP seats in the Diet are essential for eliminating irregularities and corruption, and for defending parliamentary democracy. There is a wide gulf between Nagatacho politicians and the general public in the perception of "politics and money". This being what the Japanese political world is all about, the Japanese Communist Party has firmly stood for a "clear political stance." Since last year, the JCP has uncovered various money-related suspicions of corruption hanging over various politicians. The JCP has been calling for donations by companies and other organizations to politicians to be banned in order to eradicate the major source of political corruption. The JCP has refused to accept the government subsidy to political parties because it is a practice of distributing tax money among parties that do not work for the public interest.

JCP seats will enable the Japanese people to share the wish for peace with other peoples. Since 1999, the JCP has carried out an independent diplomacy as an opposition party, putting emphasis on developing exchanges and dialogues with governments of other Asian countries. The JCP Program states, the JCP will "attach importance to promoting friendship and exchanges with Asian countries on the premise that Japan expresses remorse for its war of aggression and colonization in the past." It also states that the JCP will "exert efforts to establish peaceful coexistence among countries with different social systems and establish dialogue as well as relations of coexistence among various civilizations with different values." This JCP position has been hailed and supported by Islamic countries as well as other Asian countries.

The JCP's position is not one of remaining satisfied with the status-quo as an opposition party forever. Only by increasing the number of seats of the "reliable opposition party" in the Diet can we pave the way for establishing a real democratic government. The JCP has a far-reaching plan, the "Proposal for Remaking Japan," that will put an end to the political, economic, social, and diplomatic distortions facing our country. The plan puts forward the following three main objectives:

- (1) Break away from policies that serve the interests of large corporations and financial circles, switch the way tax money is used and collected to one of defending people's living conditions, and establish regulations for defending the people's living conditions and civil rights.
- (2) Abrogate the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty, a military alliance treaty, to put an end to policies of subservience to the United States so Japan can truly contribute to friendship and peace with the rest of Asia and the World.
- (3) Defend all provisions of the Constitution, and have provisions on peace, human rights and democracy implemented fully as the country's political and social foundation

The JCP has a vision and policy for moving away from LDP politics. This is why the JCP is capable of firmly standing for the defense of people's interests in opposition to LDP politics and the continuation of LDP politics.

This year marks the 85th anniversary of the founding of the Japanese Communist Party. The JCP has stood firmly for peace and people's sovereignty without succumbing to any coercion. It has maintained a clean political posture. It has been practicing sovereign independence repelling all forms of foreign pressure.

The JCP is always present to resolve people's hardships. This is the principled position of the JCP since its founding.

Only a JCP advance can stop the misgovernment and provide a people-first policy in lieu of LDP politics. We ask everyone to lend a hand to the JCP to achieve a major advance in the upcoming election.

## **JCP'S 12 MAIN POLICIES FOR HOUSE OF COUNCILORS ELECTION**

*(Gist)*

### **I. The problem of 'unidentified pension records' must be completely resolved without delay**

<The state has responsibility to carry out the following five urgent measures>

1. Immediately send pension premium payment records to all people who now receive pension benefits or who are enrolled in a pension plan.
2. Provide information about "missing" pension premium payment records to all possible people without narrowing the scope of investigation.
3. Pay pension benefits in accordance to the pension holders' explanation about their enrollment in a pension plan, even if they do not have receipts or any other evidence that support their claim of payment of premiums.
4. Correct all errors in computerized data by checking them against handwritten records.
5. Abolishing the Social Insurance Agency will mean allowing the government to disclaim responsibility for the present problem. The need now is to stop using money collected as pension premiums for purposes that have nothing to do with the pension system and ban arranging executive jobs in the non-government sector for retired ministry-level officials.

## **THREE WAYS TO REDRESS ECONOMIC DISPARITIES**

### **II. Change the way tax money is used**

*Stop the sizeable residential tax increase*

*Oppose an increase in the consumption tax, the worst kind of regressive taxation.*

- End the wasteful large public works projects benefiting vested interests, old and new.
- Cut wasteful expenditures on large public works projects.
- Use tax revenue for highway construction and other particular purposes for general purposes.
- Direct public works projects to improving welfare services, education, disaster prevention, and environmental protection.

*Scale back on military expenditure*

- Stop funding under the name of ‘sympathy budget’ for U.S. forces in Japan.
- Substantially reduce funding for the Aegis ships, “helicopter-carriers”, the Type 90 tanks, and for overseas dispatches of troops.
- Revoke the decision to shoulder the 3 trillion yen cast for the U.S. military realignment in Japan.

*Require large corporations and the wealthy to shoulder tax burdens according to the ability to pay*

- Raise the tax rate on large corporations to the level of 10 years ago, and save 4 trillion yen.
- Raise the rate of the highest tax brackets on incomes and on capital, and apply the concept of gross taxation, and implement progressive taxation.

*Take steps to restore fiscal health while taking necessary measures to defend living standards.*

### **III. Change social welfare policy by ending cutbacks in expenditures on protecting lives and improving social services to defend people’s right to live and have decent living conditions.**

*Make every effort to stop poverty increasing and protect people’s lives through implementation of the ONE TRILLION-YEN EMERGENCY WELFARE PLAN:*

- (1) The National Health Insurance tax should be reduced by 10,000 yen per person and the local governments should stop invalidating the National Health Insurance cards of those who are in arrears in payment of the health insurance tax;
- (2) The nursing care insurance tax as well as the user fees for services should be lowered or exempted for needy people, and the quality of nursing care for needy people, and the quality of nursing care services to guarantee humane living conditions should be preserved;
- (3) A national standard should be established for free medical services for pre-



school children.

(4) Protect the living conditions and rights of handicapped people through revocation of the present principle requiring handicapped people to pay for services according to their ability to pay under the law for the promotion of their self-support.

(5) Stop cutbacks in public assistance to households that are below the poverty level and in the allowance for single parent families.

#### **Improve the pension scheme, medical services, and nursing care services**

- Establish a minimum pension benefit system to help all those who are not entitled to receive pension benefits and those people whose pension benefits are inadequate.

- Avoid increasing disparities in medical services so that people can obtain medical care whether they live in rural areas or urban districts.

#### **IV. Change employment policy by banning the use of ‘throw-away workers’ and by establishing rules ensuring that workers can work with dignity**

- Stop employers using workers as “disposable commodities,” defend jobs and worker rights for contingent workers

- Raise the minimum wage and adopt policies and prevent people from becoming “working poor.”

- Stop the Abe Cabinet’s “labor big bang” plan that would leave long working hours unregulated and destroy worker rights in order to allow employers to use more contingent workers.

-

### **OPPOSE ADVERSE REVISION OF THE CONSTITUTION AND WORK TO BUILD A PEACEFUL JAPAN**

#### **V Oppose adverse revision of the Constitution that will allow Japan to fight wars abroad.**

- The JCP will endeavor to defend Article 9 of the Japanese Constitution, a treasure of the world, by developing the cooperation of the widest possible range of people irrespective of ideology and party affiliation.

- We oppose the government move toward changing the interpretation to reverse the stated government position that “Constitutionally, Japan cannot exercise the right of collective self-defense.”

- We oppose the LDP-Komei government’s glorification of Japan’s past war of aggression and demand that the Prime Minister no longer worship or make offerings at Yasukuni Shrine.

- We demand that the government and the ruling parties strictly follow the Chief Cabinet KONO Yoihei statement of 1993 offering an apology for the issue of “military comfort women” and the Prime Minister MURAYAMA Tomiichi statement of 1995 on the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of World War II expressing remorse for Japan’s war of aggression and colonial rule.

- We demand that the Defense Ministry and the Self-Defense Forces stop

unconstitutional information gathering and surveillance of the public and disclose everything they have done so far in this regard.  
- The JCP will do its utmost to defend all constitutional provisions on fundamental human rights, democracy, and equality between men and women.

**VI. Oppose the realignment and strengthening of the functions of the Japan-U.S. military alliance and switch to an independent diplomacy free from subservience to the U.S.**

*We oppose the ongoing realignment of U.S. forces in Japan that is aimed at binding Japan to the U.S. preemptive attack strategy.*

- Oppose the strengthening of functions of U.S. military bases and their perpetuation being done in the name of U.S. military realignment.
- Oppose the aggressive transformation of the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty. We will do our utmost to have a majority of the people share the call for the abrogation of the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty and the creation of an independent and peaceful Japan.

*We demand a swift withdrawal of Japanese troops from Iraq and work to achieve a peaceful international order in line with the spirit of the United Nations Charter.*

- Withdraw Self-Defense Force units from Iraq without delay; oppose all forms of overseas dispatch of Self-Defense Force troops.
- Break with policies subservient to the United States and shift Japan's diplomacy to one seeking to establish and maintain sovereign independence and peace in the interest of the Japanese people.
- Make every effort to achieve a peaceful and equitable international society that has overcome such problems as hunger, poverty, and human rights violations, strictly abiding by rules for peace based on the United Nations Charter.
- Take effective measures for the prevention of nuclear war and the abolition of nuclear weapons as a life or death matter; work to have the Three Non-Nuclear Principles strictly observed.
- Make every effort to have North Korea-related issues - nuclear programs, abduction of foreign citizens, and settlement of historical questions - comprehensively resolved using the framework set by the Six Party Talks and the Japan DPRK Pyongyang Declaration.

**FOR BETTER LIVING CONDITIONS, EDUCATION, CHILD RAISING, ENVIRONMENT, AND FOR IMPROVEMENT OF WOMEN'S SOCIAL STATUS**

**VII. Stop the state sacrificing local interests and support small- and medium-sized businesses and local economies.**

**We will prevent local communities from collapsing**

- Stop eliminating local public facilities and public transit systems and revitalize them in order to make local communities in which residents can live free of anxieties.
- Work to develop local economies and rebuild agriculture, forestry, and fisheries, cooperating with conservatives who share the desire to revitalize local economies with us in the movement throughout the country to improve local towns.

**We will extend direct assistance to small- and medium-sized businesses by:**

- Working for a drastic increase in the government budget for small- and medium-sized businesses to 2 percent of the general expenditure or about one-trillion yen;
- Revoking the planned adverse revision of the credit-guarantee system that helps small- and medium-sized enterprises establish their financing channels with banks and other financial institutions, and improve the Credit Guarantee Association's guaranteeing functions; stopping privatizing/consolidating government-affiliated financial institutions so that the government can expand low-interest, long-term, and fixed financing for small- and medium-sized businesses;
- Regulating large corporations' high-handedness in order to prevent them from arbitrarily bringing down the purchasing unit prices of supplies;
- Terminating wasteful large-scale public works projects to put resources in projects to help improve living conditions; ensuring that contracts for public works projects will be awarded to small- and medium-sized businesses by dividing up orders;
- Establishing regulations over large-scale retail stores' opening/closing and store hours, and allowing local governments to replace the state in certifying and supporting shopping districts;

***We will work to improve local governments' financial base by:***

- Opposing cutbacks on tax money allocated to local governments and adverse reform of the grant system in order to improve local resources;
- Demanding that the functions for securing and adjusting resources for local tax money allocation be strengthened so that money necessary for welfare services for residents be provided;
- Opposing cuts in state subsidies for education and welfare services and the state's disclaiming of responsibility for them.

**VIII. Block the total liberalization of imports of agricultural products, and increase Japan's food self-sufficiency rate.**

- We oppose the complete liberalization of agricultural imports and will make an effort to establish trade rules that secure food sovereignty for all nations.
- All farmers who wish to work or continue to work on the farm regardless of the size of their farm should be able to count on state support, and the so-called "comprehensive policy" for stabilizing agricultural operation should be ended.
- Price supports will be combined with income compensation through direct payments to farmers in disadvantaged areas.
- The state subsidy for the testing of all cattle less than 20 months of age for mad cow disease (BSE) should be continued after July 2008.

- Beef and all foods that contain beef ingredients should be required to be sold with origin labeling to ensure that consumers can exercise a right to choose.

**IX. Fulfill the agreements of the Kyoto Protocol on climate change with low-energy and low-carbon emissions.**

*In order for Japan to fulfill its pledge to cut carbon dioxide emissions by 6 percent which it made in the Kyoto Protocol:*

- The Japanese government and business sector will conclude an agreement on cutting gas emissions;
- The current tax on energy sources will be reviewed with the view of introducing an environment tax that takes into account carbon dioxide gas emissions.
- Along with energy saving efforts in producing goods and in managing various facilities, we will promote improvement in life style and economic activities through restraining excessively long office hours and working hours, stopping the construction of more huge apartments and other buildings in the name of urban development, and limiting opening of suburban outlets.

*Set medium- and long-term goals in the shifting of society to one of low-energy and fewer carbon emissions.*

- Japan should cut its carbon dioxide gas emissions by 30 percent by 2020 and 70 percent by 2050 through restructuring the economic system and life style.

*Japan should stop constructing new nuclear power plants and stage by stage give up relying on nuclear power generation.*

**X. End state interference in education under the revised Fundamental Law of Education and establish education that allows for the sound growth of children, and improve conditions for raising children without anxiety.**

*(1) We oppose competitive and selective education with state intervention and let the Constitution guide the role and form of education.*

- Education should be based on the constitutional principles of peace, respect for human rights, and democracy. We oppose state intervention in the content and methods of education. We oppose the imposition of “patriotism” that violates freedom of thought and conscience and oppose forcing students and teachers to sing “Kimigayo” (“The Emperor’s Reign”) and hoist the Hinomaru (Rising Sun) flag at school ceremonies. We oppose education that praises the past Japanese war of aggression and colonial rule.
- We oppose continuing to give national academic achievement tests that distort education. We will work to rectify the present education situation that drives children into competition and selective education.
- We will work to end the present competitive or controlled form of education, which is the source of the issue of school bullying, and establish education that will value human dignity. We will stop the Education Ministry from setting numerical targets for “halving the number of school bullying cases” because this way will only help teachers turn their eyes from bullying.
- We will work to make schools, including classes, places for children to learn to

- respect each other's human rights and human dignity and acquire civic morals.
- We will make the class size smaller so that every child in the class understands the lesson.
  - We will protect children and education from poverty and social disparities. The state subsidy system of financial assistance to students attending school will be restored with a larger budget. Measures to reduce students' burden of tuition at high schools, universities and colleges should be substantially expanded along with the establishment of scholarships and grants to help young people who otherwise are forced to give up studying in higher educational institutions due to high tuitions.
  - We will strive for schools with teaching staff, guardians, children, and residents of the community participating in running them, so that good cross-sector communications are maintained.

***(2) We insist that stable livelihoods and economic security should be improved so that raising children can be done without anxieties***

- Both men and women should be able to work while raising children.
- Parents' economic burdens for child raising should be reduced.

**XI. Stop any attempt to backpedal from the principle of equality between men and women, and establish equality between the sexes in all areas of society.**

***Review and amend wherever necessary civil code provisions that are in contravention of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.***

**XII. Investigate corrupt relations between politicians, bureaucrats and business circles, get rid of all vested interests and privileges, prohibit political fund donations by corporations or organizations, and abolish the government subsidy to political parties.**

***Eliminate political corruptions as well as irregularities and establish clean politics.***

***Ban political contributions by corporations and other organizations.***

***Abolish the state subsidy to political parties.***

***Ban bid-rigging schemes arranged by bureaucrats and the "amakudari" practice arranging well paying jobs for retired government officials at government affiliated or non-government corporations.***

***- Akahata, June 16, 2007***

## **FIGHT POVERTY, DEFEND THE CONSTITUTION'S ARTICLE 9**

*Kazuo Shii, JCP Executive Committee Chair  
Speech at the Foreign Correspondents' Club of Japan, Tokyo  
July 3, 2007*

Thank you very much for the invitation. My topic is: "What is the JCP? How will it fight the House of Councilors election?"

### ***Kyuma's gaffe raises questions about prime minister's responsibility for appointing and defending him as defense minister***

Today, Defense Minister Fumio Kyuma was forced to resign after facing severe criticism for his remarks that "it could not be helped that an atomic bomb was dropped on Nagasaki."

While the resignation was inevitable, Prime Minister Abe must be held responsible for appointing Mr. Kyuma as defense minister even though he believes that the use of nuclear weapons can be permissible depending on the situation, and for consistently defending him despite the offending remarks.

### ***A U.S. TIME Magazine article - By way of introduction of the JCP***

First of all, let me introduce the JCP.

TIME Magazine recently ran a story about the JCP in its electronic edition. The title was "Communism Is Alive and Well and Living in Japan," a welcome article for us. A researcher was quoted as saying, "The JCP is probably the most successful non-ruling communist party in Asia, if not the world." The article depicts the JCP fairly accurately.

First, the TIME article said, "The (JCP) success has its roots in the party's long history in Japan," and in particular mentioned that "it stood up to the rise of Japanese militarists in the run-up to World War II" and that the JCP maintained "consistent independence from Moscow." The JCP never stopped opposing the war of aggression even at the risk of its members' lives. It firmly stood for sovereign independence in opposition to Soviet hegemony that led to the aggression against Czechoslovakia and Afghanistan. The JCP's experiences in these struggles continue to be an important source of its vitality.

Secondly, the TIME Magazine article looks at the JCP's grassroots power. It quotes a political commentator as saying, "The JCP is the only political party in Japan that has a strong grassroots organization." About 400,000 JCP members are working at 24,000 branches. *Akahata* has a readership of about 1.6 million. With its more than 3,100 local assembly members, the JCP is in first place in party strength in local politics. We are bigger than the Liberal Democratic Party. The number of JCP branches, 24,000, is equal to the number of the nation's post offices, primary schools or childcare centers. We are proud of these huge

grassroots networks that make it possible for the JCP to work strenuously in the interest of the people.

Thirdly, the TIME Magazine article points to the JCP's lack of corruption. It states, "Communist politicians have repeatedly uncovered damaging financial scandals in government. They are too far removed from power to be enmeshed in Tokyo's endemic corruption." The JCP is the only political party that refuses to accept the government subsidy as well as donations from companies or any other organizations. This position underlies our principled stance that enables us to severely criticize injustice and corruption.

Fourthly, the TIME Magazine article refers to the JCP's position among Japanese political parties. It says, "The largest parties in Japanese politics lack a clear and cohesive identity,(...) with few discernible political differences," and that "the JCP often functions as the only genuine opposition to politics-as-usual in Tokyo." This is exactly what the article saw as a source of the JCP's vitality.

Given the fact that the ruling Liberal Democratic Party and the opposition Democratic Party of Japan have "few discernible political differences" over economic policy that endorses neo-liberalism and in attitude toward the issue of the Constitution, the JCP, "the only real opposition" and "the only reliable opposition party" calling for fundamental change in LDP politics, has an increasingly important role to play.

***The JCP proposal in dealing with the problem of 'missing pension records' is moving national politics a step forward***

I'll move on to the JCP's basic stance in the upcoming House of Councilors election.

While calling for the problem of the "missing pension records" to be resolved, the JCP focuses on political issues representing public wishes: "End Poverty and Defend Article 9 of the Constitution". We are asking the people to vote for the JCP, the "only reliable opposition party" that can achieve these objectives.

The problem of "missing pension records" is a major election issue, and the main question involved is something that should be dealt with candidly. Severe public criticism is directed at the too sloppy pension administration and the government's administrative and management ability.

The JCP has dealt with this problem in a way that takes into account the essence of the issue.

The JCP has said that the successive governments and Health, Labor and Welfare Ministers must be held responsible for the present serious situation and that the need now is for opposition parties and ruling parties to cooperate to resolve the problem and defend the public interests instead of hiding behind party politics. The JCP has proposed concrete measures to be taken to resolve the problem on the government's responsibility based on two principles: "Not a single victim must be left behind" and "The problem must be solved without delay."

The task now is to send out pension contribution payment records to about 100 million pension account holders. This will enable those who have received their records to request the Social Insurance Agency to correct data if necessary. Those who received incorrect data can ask for correction. This will also help speed up the resolution of the problem of pension records that are unaccounted for.

Recognizing that the JCP proposal is reasonable, the LDP secretary general and the Health, Labor and Welfare Minister promised to implement it. It is important that we have helped advance national policy though it's a small step forward.

However, the timing of its implementation is another important issue. The government has said it will do this in the next fiscal year starting in April 2008. That's too late. We demand that the government implement it immediately.

### ***To end poverty, we are calling for 3 changes***

The biggest political issue on the agenda is to end poverty. For several years, the widening economic disparities have been a major social issue in Japan. The problem involved is the growing poverty rate.

Japan is the world's second largest economy, but you can hear the word "refugee" everywhere you turn.

"Medical refugees" are growing in number. They are excluded from public medical services because their National Health Insurance cards have been invalidated after their failure to pay the National Health Insurance premiums which are too high for them. An increasing number of elderly people are barred from public nursing services after their wheel chairs and beds for nursing care were taken away from them or after they were unable to pay costs for nursing homes. They are called "nursing-care refugees." There are also "Internet-cafe refugees" who cannot afford to pay housing rents even though they are working hard every day. This is another very serious social problem.

Under the slogan "End Poverty", the JCP is calling for three changes:

First, we are demanding that the residential tax increase be revoked and that there be no consumption tax increase. We will stop the regressive tax system that forces working people to pay more and gives large corporations generous tax breaks.

Second, in social services, we will work to have the state increase its responsibility for costs for the National Health Insurance premiums, the nursing care insurance premiums, child medical services, welfare services for the handicapped, and public assistance to low-income households and mother-child households.

Third, in the area of employment, we call for an end to lawlessness in the workplace, such as unpaid overtime work and the use of temporary workers disguised as contract workers. We also demand an end to discrimination against



temps and part-time workers, and call for the minimum wage to be raised to at least 1,000 yen an hour.

In addressing these issues, it is necessary to move away from the extraordinary large corporation-first economic policy. Only the JCP is determined to provide the policies to fight poverty and provide the public with essential lifelines.

***Defend Article 9 of the Constitution—A JCP advance is key to stopping the rampage of PM Abe’s cabinet consisting chiefly of pro-Yasukuni forces***

The Constitution is another major campaign issue.

Some people are underestimating the issue of the Constitution on the grounds that Prime Minister Abe is facing enough difficulties caused by the pension fiasco and other issues. But the LDP’s 155-point Manifesto clearly states at the outset, “We will initiate a parliamentary process of constitutional revision in three years, and put it to a national referendum.” We cannot ignore the danger of this move.

Article 9 is a major target of constitutional revision. Prime Minister Abe has a program for turning Japan into a country that will fight wars side by side with the United States by deleting Article 9 from the Constitution.

To make the matter worse, the advocates of constitutional revision is led by the pro-Yasukuni Shrine forces, who glorify the past Japanese war of aggression as a “war for liberating Asia,” and as war for self-existence and self-defense.

Since he began his career as a politician, Prime Minister Abe’s rightist position has stood out among the pro-Yasukuni Shrine forces. After he became prime minister, although he made some adjustments to his views because he was bound by his position as the prime minister, his real intention remains unchanged, as clear from the remarks he made in March this year on the “comfort women” to the effect that women had not been taken to brothels to have sex with Japanese soldiers.

On June 26, U.S. House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee adopted a resolution demanding a formal apology from the Japanese government over the “comfort women” issue. On this issue, in 1993, then Chief Cabinet Secretary Kono Yohei issued a statement acknowledging that there was coercion and involvement of the Japanese army. The government has explained that this is its official position. But the Kono statement has repeatedly been trampled on by the words and deeds of Prime Minister Abe himself as well as by those of pro-Yasukuni forces in such a way as the advertisement they published in the *Washington Post* justifying their position.

I call on the Japanese prime minister to acknowledge the historical fact and offer a formal apology in response to the criticism from the international community on this issue.

The forces that refuse to make a soul-searching examination of the past war,

those who are unable to state clearly whether the war was legitimate or not, are insisting on constitutional revision, the aim being to enable Japan to wage war abroad. How dangerous their move is!

In the upcoming election, only an advance of the JCP, which has maintained a pacifist position throughout its 85-year history will provide the most reliable opposition to stop the rampage of Prime Minister Abe's pro-Yasukuni cabinet toward adversely revising the Constitution.

Thank you for your attention.

### **[Shii Responds to Reporters' Questions]**

***The JCP will reach out to a wide-range of voters who are seriously searching for political alternatives***

*Q: Do you see a possibility that the ruling coalition will lose its majority in the House of Councilors as the result of the upcoming election?*

**Shii:** It is not easy to predict the outcome of the election. But one thing is certain: the Abe Cabinet is in a serious political crisis. Look at the issues of the pension fiasco, tax increases on working people, "comfort women", and the series of scandals and gaffes involving cabinet ministers. Mr. Abe's ability to run the government is being questioned. The LDP's support base without doubt is in a state of uncertainty.

It is also true that the Democratic Party of Japan remains incapable of putting up a stance of opposing the Abe Cabinet's policies. For example, the DPJ is unable to put up opposition to increasing taxes on the working people. The DPJ Manifesto mentions nothing about the Constitution because the DPJ position is no different from the LDP's concerning constitutional revision. Like the LDP, the DPJ also has many pro-Yasukuni politicians within it. In the opinion ad published by the pro-Yasukuni group in the *Washington Post*, 13 DPJ Dietmembers are listed along with LDP Dietmembers.

Fed up with the LDP, many Japanese voters are seriously searching for a political alternative. The TIME Magazine article that I mentioned earlier points out that "increasingly sophisticated Japanese voters seek a meaningful political choice." We will make every effort to convince the voters who are "seeking a meaningful political choice" that the surest way to bring about a change in politics is to help win a JCP advance in this election as the real opposition to the Prime Minister Abe's LDP-Komei coalition government.

***By playing its role as the 'only reliable opposition party, the JCP can develop the path to become the "reliable ruling party" in future***

*Q: If the JCP is to wield greater power in real politics, will you ever consider participating in a coalition government that might be established as a result of the election?*

**Shii:** There can be no chance for the JCP to join a government or cooperate with it after the upcoming House of Councilors election. Clearly, the JCP's cooperation with the LDP is impossible. There is no condition to cooperate with the DPJ on government, either. The JCP election policies are focused on the "End poverty and defend Article 9" agenda. Whatever the outcome of the election, we will continue to play our role as the "only reliable opposition party".

However, we do not intend to remain an opposition party forever. We are striving to establish a Democratic Coalition Government in the early part of the 21st century. This will be a government that will end Japan's abnormal subordination to the United States, end the aberration policy of primarily serving the interests of major corporations, and establish a Democratic Coalition Government based on the principle that "people are sovereign." But it is a little bit early to set this goal as our immediate objective at present. We believe that playing our role as the only reliable opposition party will be certain to pave the way to becoming a "reliable ruling party."

***A JCP advance will be possible only by defeating every attack by our opponents'***

*Q: Why can't the JCP increase its seats in the elections even though it is the "only reliable opposition party" that has great grassroots power in Japanese society?*

**Shii:** Throughout the history of parliamentary elections we have experienced many ups and downs.

In the 1970s, the JCP achieved its first major advance since the adoption of the prototype of the present JCP Program. At the time we obtained about 6 million votes in the parliamentary election. However, in the subsequent fierce anti-communist attacks, we suffered setbacks.

We attained another peak in the late 1990s by receiving about 8 million votes. This JCP advance triggered an even fiercer anti-communist campaign. In order to banish the JCP from the nation's political landscape, a campaign began calling for a "two-party" system. It is a new anti-communist strategy to force the public to choose between the Liberal Democratic Party and the Democratic Party of Japan, thus shutting out the JCP from the political arena. In recent several parliamentary elections, the JCP was forced to retreat. But in the 2005 House of Representatives general election, we recovered our vote-getting strength by obtaining about 5 million votes.

The JCP is a party firmly determined to change the course of Japanese society. This is why it is inevitable that any JCP advance will ignite attacks. There can be no even road for the JCP to make advances.

The JCP received about 6 million votes in the 1970s, and a record 8 million in the 1990s. Our next target should be 10 million. We have set the target number of votes we should obtain in the coming House of Councilors election at 6.5 million. We are determined to fulfill this goal so that it will be a new step

forward toward another peak.

***Japan must end the military alliance with the United States to become a member of the community of nations for peace***

*Q: If Japan abrogates the Security Treaty with the United States, what will happen to Japan's security? What will be the role of Article 9 of the Constitution?*

**Shii:** Military alliances on the whole are in the process of disbandment or weakening and ending throughout the world.

For example, the Southeast Asia Treaty Organization (SEATO) was disbanded. The Central Treaty Organization (CENTO) is gone. The Warsaw Treaty Organization (WTO) also became a thing of the past. The Inter-American Treaty of Reciprocal Assistance (Rio Treaty) is dysfunctional. ANZUS (Australia, New Zealand and the U.S.) became dysfunctional after the withdrawal of New Zealand. The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) is increasing its membership in East Europe, but it was divided over the Iraq war. France, Germany, Belgium, Canada and other major countries opposed the Iraq war, and the NATO could not take concerted actions. In the present-day world, the Japan-U.S. military alliance stands out in its strengthened function as a military alliance.

Let me talk about the security policy after the abrogation of the Japan-U.S. military alliance. Japan should contribute to forming a regional community of nations for peace, and work as a member to secure peace and stability.

In Southeast Asia, the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation (TAC) is creating a broad current for regional peace with the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) as the driving force. The TAC includes China, Russia, India, Pakistan, Japan, the Republic of Korea and other countries. This is developing as a community of nations covering a broad geographical area for peace calling for resolutions to conflicts through peaceful and diplomatic means based on the U.N. Charter. Similar communities of nations for peace have been created in other regions, including the African Union (AU) in Africa and the Union of South American Nations in Latin America.

Throughout the world, a major change is underway to replace military alliances with communities of nations for peace.

In this respect, Northeast Asia lags behind other regions, but I am hopeful about its future. A success of the ongoing six-party talks will possibly pave the way for creating a community of nations for peace in Northeast Asia.

Military alliances need hypothetical outside enemies, but this is an outmoded concept. A community of nations for peace won't need to seek enemies outside. A community of nations for peace needs no country that plays a leadership role. Japan should become a member of a regional community for peace and seek to maintain security by diplomatic means. I think Japan should envisage such a future. Article 9 would best guide the county to help create such a community of

nations

Needless to say, we do not want Japan to become hostile to the United States. I am not anti-U.S. The JCP calls for the conclusion of a Japan-U.S. Friendship Treaty to replace the present military alliance. I think this has something in common with the spirit of the American Revolution for independence. Thomas Paine in his "Common Sense" severely criticized the very idea of a military alliance as a way to drag America into an unnecessary war. This is a very impressive and farsighted statement.

***Japan must face up to its past errors with sincerity***

*Q: Tojo Hideki's daughter, Tojo Yuko, declared her candidacy in the upcoming House of Councilors election. Just two hours ago, she spoke here. Do you think she is a patriot?*

**Shii:** She is not to blame for being Tojo Hideki's daughter, of course. But she maintains the ideology of pro-Yasukuni forces.

I think a true patriot is a person who can face up to errors committed by the country in the past. Germany achieved this through nationwide discussions. I believe the German people can be proud of this achievement.

Japan lags behind in this effort. We cannot change or erase past history, but we can face up to the historical facts. Real courage means facing up to past errors and squarely acknowledging them. I believe people's love of Japan, our own country, will naturally be born by undergoing such experiences of self-reflection.

***- Akahata, July 5, 2007***

( E N D )

**= JPS BOOKS =**

## **JCP Goes to South Korea and Pakistan**

By SHII Kazuo

This booklet contains JCP Chair Shii Kazuo's report at a public assembly on JCP delegation's visit to South Korea and Pakistan in September 2006.

A5 size, 48 pages Price: 500 yen (plus tax for domestic purchase and shipping)

## **The 21st Century World and Socialism**

*Theoretical discussion with CPC delegation*

By Tetsuzo FUWA

*This is a report given by Tetsuzo FUWA on the four-day discussion between the Japanese Communist Party delegation and the Communist Party of China delegation on theoretical issues*

A5 size, 142 pages Price: 1,500 yen (plus tax for domestic purchase and shipping)

## **ASIA, AFRICA, AND LATIN AMERICA IN THE PRESENT-DAY WORLD**

By Tetsuzo FUWA

*An overwhelming majority of the countries in Asia, Africa, and Latin America have achieved independence during the last 60 years and are making efforts to build new nations. It is increasingly important for Japan as a member of Asia, Africa, and Latin America to carry out diplomacy that will earn the trust and respect of the countries of these regions in the 21st century.*

A5 size, 152 pages Price: 1,500 yen (plus tax for domestic purchase and shipping)

## **BREAKING JAPAN'S DIPLOMATIC STALEMATE**

By Tetsuzo FUWA

*Japan's diplomatic stalemate is very serious today. The major cause is the Japanese government's attitude toward the wartime past, Japan's war of aggression and colonialism. In the 60th year since the end of World War II, every Japanese citizen is called upon to face up to the question "What was that war about?"*

A5 size, 64 pages Price: 800 yen (plus tax for domestic purchase and shipping)

**(Visa and Master Card accepted)**

Published by

**Japan Press Service**

25-6, Sendagaya 4-chome, Shibuya-ku, Tokyo 151-0051, Japan

Phone: +81-3.3423-2381 Fax: +81-3.3423-2383

E-mail: [info@japan-press.co.jp](mailto:info@japan-press.co.jp) <http://www.japan-press.co.jp>