

International Symposium on “the ILO/UNESCO Recommendation concerning the Status of Teaching Profession”

Expecting to make use of the CEART Recommendation as well as ILO/UNESCO Recommendation itself, ZENKYO convened the above mentioned Symposium in Tokyo June 13 and 14, 2009 jointly with the Research Institute for Democracy and Education. Approximately 150 persons including researchers and scholars actively participated from trade unions under the banner of the ZENROREN. From overseas teachers unions, Mr. Hwang Hyun-su, Director of International Department, KTU Korea, Mr. Roger Ferrari, Director of International Department, SNES France and Mr. Ian Lecky, Vice President, New Zealand Education Institute.

The representatives of ZENKYO and overseas teachers unions made oral reports on the following two themes: the first day; “Teachers Unions' Struggle to Overcome Neo-liberalism” and 2nd day: “Present State and Tasks of Teacher Evaluation” concerning Negotiation and Consultation”.

It was remarkable that “Recommendation on the Status of Teachers” adopted in 1966 by the Inter-Governmental Conference has still now fresh vital soul and values. At the same time, it has revealed up that neo-liberal educational policies have brought about realities contrary to the working of education. Korean representative stated that his Union planned to submit allegations on teacher evaluation and for the moment his Union recommends members to study on the recommendations issued by the CEART to the Japanese government and teachers unions.



Now in Japan, teachers unions aims to establish their rights based on the recommendations and make best use of the ideas in education.

Educational policies of the New Administration; Democratic Party and Our Teachers Union Movement

The General Election conducted in August 2009 was a historical election that Japanese people realized their power.

The newly born Democrat administration published policies attached importance on educational policies including free tuition fees for high school education.

ZENKYU proposed its urgent demands to realize, "maximum class size of 30", "increase of quota of teachers", "establishment of scholarship system" and "enrichment of financial assistance system for schooling".

Reflecting our movements, the new administration published some important measures and budgets, though with various challenges.



The telephone counseling of educational expenses was received.

Tuition fees of national and public high schools become free of charge. Scholastic achievement tests that were used to be for all students of elementary and middle schools will be changed to sample tests.

This move is an important step to prevent the implementation of the Revised Law of Education. With the support of public opinions, our movements will continue to move on.

Unconditional Withdrawal of Futenma Air Base

U.S. Futenma air base in Okinawa is located in the midst of residential area. It is said that the base is the most dangerous air base in the world and residents have been troubled with noises and possible

crash by antimissile.

Thirteen years ago, people in Okinawa succeeded in making U.S. marines agree to return the base to Japan. However, yielding to the pres-

sure of the United States, Japanese Government promoted a plan to establish a U.S. Marine Corps Futenma air station in Henoko coral reef.

On November 18, people in Okinawa showed their resolve by organizing a big rally to reject the construction of a new air base in Henoko district.

The new administration still now hesitates to demand closure and/or removal of the U.S. base and is dubious to indicate new site.

ZENKYU demands the government to do away with the Japan-U.S. Security Treaty and establish equal relationship between Japan and United States.



The 10th Report and the Recommendation of the CEART

The CEART 10th session was convened at the UNESCO Headquarters in Paris September 28 to October 2, 2009. Based on the past four Reports and Recommendations, the CEART reexamined allegations of the ZENKYO.

Reports and Extracts of The CEART 10th session can be read in the following websites.

CEART requested the government and teachers unions in Japan to make joint efforts for the resolution of the problems.

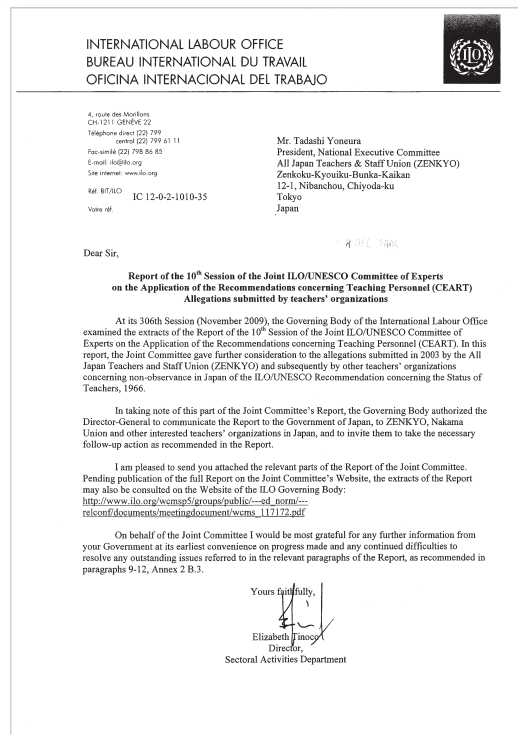
ZENKYO considers that the joint efforts to make Japanese translation of 1966 Recommendation will contribute to the development of negotiation and consultation between the Ministry of Education and teachers unions. With regard to policies concerning incompetent teachers and teacher evaluation system, it is extremely important to acquire information and good prac-

tices and deepen social dialogues to each other.

ZENKYO will make its best efforts to begin sincere consultation with both parties based on the spirit of

the Recommendation.

http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_norm/---relconf/documents/meetingdocument/wcms_117172.pdf



Donation of Raised Funds for Victims of Cyclone

On September 10, Takashi Yamaguchi, President and Yoshihisa Kitamura, Secretary General visited the Office of the UNHCR and donated raised funds ¥1,000,000 for victim children of cyclone in Myanmar.

Even after ZENKYO donated the same amount to the Office in November 2008, funds for victims have been raised for victim children in China and victims of cyclones in Myanmar.



United Actions of High School Students

On Christmas Eve of 2009, a number of high school students demonstrated Government office areas at Kasumigaseki, crying their demands to guarantee their right to high school education.

Those high school students were motivated to make their voices reflected in education policy making of the parliament. After handing over their message cards and signatures to the Ministry of Health and Labour, they vigorously ap-

pealed how Japanese high school students suffered from various difficulties including their classmates who dropped out of schools due to inability to pay tuition fees and/or to find jobs.

In the parade in which some students played a role of St. Nicholas with his red costume and baton twirler, their voice echoed through the streets "St. Nicholas and Prime Minister Hatoyama, give us high school

students nice Christmas presents!"

Now in Japan, high school students influence public opinions and the society steadily.



Parade by high school students

International Activities

Centrale des Syndicates du Quebec

Kumiko Honda, ZENKYO Vice-president, attended the 39th Convention of Centrale des Syndicates du Quebec convened June 25 to July 1, 2009. Together with a representative of ZENROREN and Municipal Workers' Union, she observed the proceedings and exchanged views.

The 15th United Nations Conference of Parties on Climate Change



Hisashi Nakamura, a member of the Central Executive Committee, attended the above-mentioned Conference convened in Copenhagen December 10 to 19, 2009 and actively made utmost efforts to reach effective agreement.

Peace Tour in Korea



The ZENKYO Youth Department conducted a Peace Tour in Korea during December 26 to 30, 2009. Forty members exchanged views with Korean teachers and studied on peace.

The 6th Congress of FSU



Kumiko Honda, Vice-president took part in the 6th Congress of FSU (Fédération Syndicale Unitaire) convened January 31 to February 6, 2010, as a representative of ZENROREN.

ZENKYO visited KTU

During March 3 to 5, ZENKYO President Yamaguchi and Vice-President Honda visited KTU (Korean Teachers and Education Worker's Union) to exchange views.