

Developing International Exchanges

ZENKYO Realized the First Conference with Federação Nacional dos Professores (FENPROF)



President Yoshihisa Kitamura attended a conference with Federação Nacional dos Professores (FENPROF)

ZENKYO sent President Yoshihisa Kitamura to Portugal for joining ZENROREN officers to cultivate friendly relationship with affiliated organizations of Confederação Geral dos Trabalhadores Portugueses (CGTP-IN). ZENROREN and CGTP-IN had a mutual agreement, "start exchanges with affiliated organizations if possible", in March, 2013.

On November 8th, 2013, President Kitamura visited the headquarters of

FENPROF and had a conference. Mr. Mário Nogueira, Secretário - Geral, and Ms. Ama Gaspar, a member of Executive Committee, attended the conference.

President Kitamura developed an understanding of their present situations of schools and education, and FENPROF's struggles at there. He also introduced ZENKYO's struggles in Japan, and deepened their mutual understandings of fostering

the neo-liberalistic educational "rebuilding" in both countries. The conference became an opportunity to strengthen international solidarity between ZENKYO and FENPROF.

Actually, Japan and Portugal have a long history of friendly relationship more than 400 years even though these countries are far from each other. President Kitamura brought "Castella (popular sponge cake)", introduced into Japan from Portugal in old time, as a souvenir for them. FENPROF treated Kitamura glasses of Portugal Wine, and they had a conference in a friendly atmosphere.



President Kitamura attended a demonstration of FENPROF in front of the Education Department building in Portugal.

ZENKYO and American Federation of Teachers (AFT) Realized the First Bilateral Communication



Takae Takura, an officer of International Affairs of ZENKYO, participated in the conference with AFT officers.

On November 8th, 2013, Takae Takura, Officer of International Affairs of ZENKYO, participated in the first meeting with AFT, an affiliated organization of the AFL-

CIO. The Meeting was held at the headquarters of AFT in Washington DC, USA. From AFT, Ms. Patricia Keefer, Director, International Affairs Department, and other officers attended the meeting.

They exchanged their opinions regarding missions and current conditions of education in each country.

It was the first time that ZENKYO exchanged with teachers and staff union in the United States. The meeting became an important opportunity for further exchanges in the future.

ZENKYO Officers Communicated with SNES on November 8th, 2013

Shozo Kanisawa, Vice president of ZENKYO, and Masayuki Komeda, Deputy General Secretary, visited the headquarters of The Syndicat national des enseignants de second degré (SNES-FSU), and they celebrated their reunion. From SNES-FSU, Mr. Roger Ferrari, Secrétaire International, and other officers attended the meeting. The visit was realized by ZENKYO's own decision after meeting with officers of ILO and ZENROREN on Nov. 7th. They recognized that they have a lot of issues to communicate each other through the meeting, and confirmed continuing exchanges.

All Japan Teachers and Staffs Union

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ZENKYO NEWSLETTER

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ZENKYO Submitted CEART Allegations against the Japanese Government on Non-observance of the 1966 Recommendation concerning the Status of Teachers

*CEART (Committee of Experts on the Application of the Recommendations concerning Teaching Personnel)

All Japan Teachers and Staffs Union (ZENKYO) has tried to promote social dialogue with the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology in Japan for observance of the ILO/UNESCO Recommendation concerning the Status of Teachers, 1966. In 2002, ZENKYO submitted CEART allegations against the Japanese government on non-observance of the 1966 Recommendation concerning the Status of Teachers, and reported problems concerning "incompetent teachers" and "to thoroughly evaluate the teacher assessment system." According to the allegations, CEART Fact-finding mission visited Japan in April 2008. The CEART recommendations were adapted by the ILO governing body and communicated to ZENKYO and the Japanese government. The Joint Committee recommended

the Ministry and all prefecture boards to make further improvement five times.

In December 2012, ZENKYO conducted nationwide surveys on working situations of 6,879 teachers and staff. After implementation of the surveys, ZENKYO analyzed of the surveys results in cooperation with lawyers, doctors and investigators, and revealed facts of "working long hours" to the society. ZENKYO has striven to demand improving their working situation against the government, and reported facts of "working long hours" to ILO and CEART in November 2013. In addition, ZENKYO has submitted CEART new allegations against the Japanese government on non-observance of the 1966 Recommendation concerning teachers with regard to "working long hours" and situations of being employed as "non-permanent teachers."

ZENKYO Officers Visited the Secretariat of the CEART on November 7th, 2013

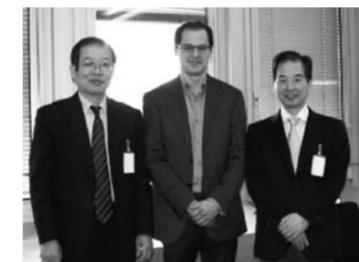
National Confederation of Trade Unions (Zenroren) sent officers to the headquarters of ILO, in Geneva, to submit additional information of restriction problems of basic labor rights for public service employees in Japan. Shozo Kanisawa, Vice



Had a meeting with member of The ILO's Committee on Freedom of Association at the headquarters of ILO.

president of ZENKYO, and Masayuki Komeda, Deputy General Secretary, also joined the trip, and visited the secretariat of CEART to have a

meeting with Mr. Oliver Liang, Education Sector Specialist on November 7th, 2013. At the meeting, they reported facts of "working long hours and teacher professionalism" and situations of being employed as "non-permanent teachers" in Japan, and mentioned possibilities of making new allegations against the Japanese government on non-observance of the 1966 Recommendation concerning the Status of Teachers. In the meeting, Mr. Liang introduced many countries that have similar problems, and advised them on some points regarding making new allegations.



Shozo Kanisawa, ZENKYO Vice President, and Masayuki Komeda, Deputy General Secretary, had a meeting with Mr. Olive Liang, Education Sector Specialist of ILO.

Grasp Again Constitution of Japan by People's Opinions

The Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) took over the power from the Democratic Party of Japan (DPJ). Parliament formally elected Shinzo Abe as the Prime Minister of Japan, and his second cabinet has started since December 2012. He is trying to foster an undesirable amendment to the Constitution of Japan. ZENKYO has dedicated itself to preserve

peaceful constitution, and make the most of it. ZENKYO started campaigns for collecting hope and feelings of teachers and staff regarding the Constitution, "Messages of Loving the Constitution of Japan." Each one noted, "I



Messages collection of "I love the Constitution."

love article *** of the Constitution" on pieces of paper. ZENKYO received a lot of messages from all parts of the country. High school and junior high school students' messages were included. These messages were introduced in ZENKYO Newspaper, and the messages collection was created. The collection was sent to all Diet members. This campaign became a compilation of feelings in regard to the Constitution for teachers and staff in Japan.

ZENKYO Declares Resolutely Opposing "State Secret Law" that infringes upon the Right to Know Information and Fundamental Human Rights

The Prime Minister Abe and his cabinet steamrolled a bill of "State Secret Law" in the autumn of 2013. As a matter of fact, the chief of the administration will be able to keep a wide range of information as secret. If people commit an offense against the law, they will be punished. The law actually encroaches on human rights. ZENKYO struggled and campaigned against the bill by various demonstrations with trade-unions and many individuals. Extra ordinary assembly was held twice regarding the bill, and tens of thou-



Tens of thousands people gathered in front of the Diet against the bill of "State Secret Law."

sands people gathered in front of the Diet every day. Finally, the bill was steamrolled, however, these struggles revealed people feelings; they want to preserve democracy.

Big Assembly for Education and the Constitution on March 29, 2014

The enactment of a bill of "State Secret Law" and launch a Notional Security Council become a movement of changing Japan to "country that can go to war." Abe's cabinet is trying to foster the movement with attacks on education. ZENKYO declares resolutely opposing the attacks, and will convene a big assembly for protecting and making the most of the constitution

of Japan on March 29, 2014. At the big assembly in Tokyo, there will be more than 2,000 participants including teachers, staff, parents and high school students from the whole country. ZENKYO has continued to gather supports from many organizations for success of the assembly.



On March 29, 2014, ZENKYO conducts big assembly for protecting and making the most of the constitution.

President Yoshihisa Kitamura participated in a conference with President of EI and EI General Secretary

ZENKYO Requested Early Approval of Membership for the Education International

ZENKYO submitted the application for membership to the Education International (EI) on May 29th, 2012. Regarding the application, Education International's Committee of Experts visited the head office of ZENKYO, in Tokyo, for investigation of requirements for admission to EI in January 2013. Following the mission, EI committee of experts concluded, "ZENKYO does meet the requirements for admission to Education International." On November 15th, 2013, Ms. Susan Hopgood, President of EI, and Mr. Fred K. A. van Leeuwen, EI General Secretary visited the head office of ZENKYO, and participated in a conference with President Yoshihisa Kitamura regarding the issue. ZENKYO has been waiting for a conclusion of the EI Executive Board according to contents of the conference.

Campaigns against Nuclear Power Plants in 2013



There were 8,000 participants at campaigns against Nuclear Power Plants in Ehime prefecture on December 1st, 2013.

Three years have passed since the Great East Japan Earthquake and the accident of Fukushima Dai-ichi Nuclear Power Plants occurred in March 2011. The accident hasn't restored yet, and damage of affected areas have been expanding. Radia-

tion - contaminated water from the Nuclear Power Plants has flowed out into the ocean, and the flood is incapable of being controlled. However, the Prime Minister Abe says, "Nuclear Power Plants are safe", and tries to reopen closed Nuclear Power Plants and export Nuclear Power Plants.

On the other hand, people who experienced "extraneous danger" of the accident has been continuing campaigns for "No Nuclear Power Plants." People gathers in front of the Prime Minister's official residence and an electric company on every Friday evening, and cries out,

"Don't need Nuclear Power Plants! Protect children!" Furthermore, the "NO NUKES DAY" campaign was held in Tokyo in June 2013, and there were 18,000 participants. There were several campaigns against Nuclear Power Plants in Japan last year. These campaigns were convened in several places. There were 8,000 participants in Fukushima City in November, 8,000 participants in Ehime prefectures in December, and 800 participants in Fukui prefecture in September. Actually, there are 13 Nuclear Power Plants in the Fukui prefecture, and there is Ikata Nuclear Power Plant in the Ehime prefecture. Many teachers and staff also attended these campaigns.

Tour of Fukushima, "Fukushima wo Miru, Aruku, Kangaeru (Watch, Walk and Think of Fukushima)"

There are 140,000 people have been living as refugees because of an accident of Fukushima Dai-ichi Nuclear Power Plants since March 2011. ZENKYO planned a tour of Fukushima, "Fukushima wo Miru, Aruku, Kangaeru (Watch, Walk and Think of Fukushima)" Participants visited evacuation zones near the Nuclear Power Plants. It is permitted to temporary visit these zones, but people



A ship has left on the ground since March 2011 at Minami Soma, Fukushima.

can't live in these zones because high levels of radiation have been detected at there. Unattended hous-

es were being dilapidated, and there were a lot of weed-grown farms and rice fields. Teachers who are living in Fukushima prefecture said, "I want to get my hometown back" and "I feel slightly anxious because there are many children who diagnosed with cancer of the thyroid." One of the participants said, "I'm distressed by invisible enemy. I have to tell somebody the present situation."

ZENKYO Has Proceeded with the Project of "Fukushima no Kodomo ni Nobinobi Time wo (Let's give relaxing times to children in Fukushima)"

Children can't enjoy playing outside enough in Fukushima prefecture because of harmful effects of radiation. ZENKYO proceeded with the project of "Fukushima no Kodomo ni Nobinobi Time wo (Let's give relaxing times to children in Fukushima)" in this year too. Children who live in Fukushima prefecture were invited to Tokyo, Saitama, Shiga and Wakayama prefectures on their

summer vacations. They also invited to Nagano prefecture on their winter vacations, and enjoyed skiing at there. They were smiling cheerfully, because they could run around and play to the best of their ability without considering radioactive contamination.



Children enjoyed swimming at the project of "Fukushima no Kodomo ni Nobinobi Time wo (Let's give relaxing times to children in Fukushima)"