

Zenkyo officials attended the SNES congress in France and exchanged views with representatives in other countries March 31st-April 4th in 2014

Mr. Shozo Kanisawa and Mr. Shinichi Fujita, vice presidents of Zenkyo, attended the SNES Regular Congress held in France from March 31st to April 4th in 2014, and established friendly relations with delegates from different countries. Congress indicated that the World Bank, IMF and the headquarter of EU all together had pushed the policy of the fiscal austerities and the big company centered treatment

policy forward, which has caused the problem of employment and pay cut. In terms of education, they pointed out the problem of long working hours and wage freeze for 4 years, as well as the problem on the number of teaching staff. Congress also emphasized the importance to expand the further cooperation with other organizations in order to fight, as delegates had intense discussion.



Two SNES officials who participated in Zenkyo's 32nd Regular Congress as overseas guests (February 14th-15th in 2015)

First bilateral exchange between FECCOO in Spain and Zenkyo on July 3rd, 2014



Zenkyo delegation who had a meeting with FECCOO

Zenkyo delegation visited Spain and had the first bilateral meeting with FECCOO after

submitting additional information to CEART. In the meeting, both recognized the similarity not only

in the attack they experienced but also in the strategy they took. Recently, Zenkyo has worked on establishing international solidarity by strengthening bilateral exchange style. In Europe, besides the consistent partnership with SNES in France, Zenkyo established fraternal relationship with FENPROF at 2014 International symposium in Tokyo, and this time with FECCOO in Spain so far. These relations will be a foothold for its further international activities.

Meeting with Korean Teachers Union. Both Unions Acknowledged the Importance of Cooperation and Joint Action Against Issues

On October 1st 2014, Mr. Shozo Kanisawa and Mr. Hisashi Nakamura, vice presidents of Zenkyo, visited Republic of Korea to have a meeting with KTU. They met with Mr. Kim Jeong Hun, KTU President, Ms. Lee Young-ju, Senior vice president, and Mr. Kim Jae-seok, vice president, and this visit deepened friendship by exchanging views on actualities

and tasks of education. Through the meeting, it became obvious that under the policy of neo-liberalism both organization shares many common issues. Therefore, both recognized the significance of cooperating and taking joint actions.



Mr. Kanisawa and Mr. Nakamura, vice presidents of Zenkyo who had a meeting with KTU

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Allegation to CEART —Zenkyo Submitted an Additional Information concerning Non-permanent Teaching Personnel and Other Problems

On January 8th, 2014 Zenkyo filed an allegation to CEART regarding teachers' long intensive working hours and the problem of temporary teachers.

The allegation on working hours is based on the result of the Zenkyo's survey on actual working conditions conducted in 2012. Moreover, Zenkyo delegation visited ILO on July 1 and presented the additional information. In addition, they directly explained it in detail and gave the clear understanding of the status of teachers. A delegate of Zenkyo Women's Committee appealed the terrible working condition of female teachers in Japan. Furthermore, the members of the Prefectural High School of Staff Unions of Hokkaido, Niigata, Nagano and Kouchi mentioned several problems; the problems on re-hired teachers after



Zenkyo delegation members visited the CEART

retirement, on Saturday classes, which is a cause of the teachers' long working hours, and on the unfair treatment of temporary teachers compared



Zenkyo delegation visited the CEART Secretariat at ILO

with that of regular ones.

The secretary of CEART at ILO commented that this helped them to grasp precisely the problems Japanese teachers are facing as well as the content of the allegation. He also mentioned that the allegation filed by Zenkyo is supposed to be discussed in the CEART meeting in 2015.

After the meeting with CEART, Zenkyo also visited Spain to have a discussion with FECCOO, Teaching Staff Union in Spain, and exchanged information on each other's current situation and problems on education and teaching staff.

Zenkyo Submitted a Counter Reply Against the Government Response

Corresponding to Zenkyo's additional information, the Japanese government sent a reply in October, 2014. In the reply it has recognized the two problems Zenkyo raised in allegation as important issues to be solved. Meanwhile, the rest of its statements were far from the current situation in Japan. In its response, it insisted that teachers' overtime work be very limited and that every prefectural boards of education be observing the rule. It also stated that overtime allowance

has been paid. In addition, it mentioned that the treatment of temporary teachers is almost the same as that of regular teachers. So, on January 13th, 2015, Zenkyo submitted the counter document against the government's reply to CEART, indicating the concrete cases. Furthermore, Zenkyo supplied the same document as it had submitted to CEART for Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, requesting to have consultation over the issues with Zenkyo.

Abe's Educational Rebuilding –Strengthen the Political Grip over Education Every effort to provide education in accordance with Constitution and Convention on the rights of the child

The Abe government has accelerated the move to instill politics in education along with that of mal-revision of Japan Constitution. The government set up Education Rebuilding Council and it has already issued five proposals. Based on these proposals, it has hastened the discussion in the education policy bodies such as The Central Education Council. In fact, some of them have been under legislative proceedings while others have already started to be implemented. Zenkyo has been working to stop series of education policies, calling them "Abe education rebuilding". It is the educational policy of excessive competition based on neo-liberalism. Moreover, the biggest feature of this reform is that it has a tendency of nationalistic education, denying the democratic education itself. Furthermore, the subjects to this series of reform policies are from preschools, to secondary schools and universities, which means breaking the framework of local educational administration. Various kinds of policies such as the reform



On March 29th, National Education Rally –A big Success with more than 2700 participants from all over the country

in university entrance exam system have been proposed in succession. As a result, it will lead to the stronger involvement by the government in the educational contents. Zenkyo regards Abe's "education rebuilding" as the reform which destroys the democratic education; all children are guaranteed their growth and development. Furthermore, Zenkyo considers it as a reform to change the education into the

one convenient for those in power. Against this reform, the nationwide-scale assembly was convened in March 2014. Participants advocated stopping Abe's educational reform and observing the Article 9. More than 2700 participants gathered from all over the country and it was a big success. With this success as a start Zenkyo has been working on to confront resolutely the series of policies the Abe Cabinet has introduced.

In the election held in December 2014, LDP advocated for campaign pledge as "implementation of Abe's education rebuilding": to be concrete, "the revision of the government course guideline", "English Education in lower grades at elementary schools", "Japanese history as a compulsory subject", " 'moral education' as a special subject", " setting of a new subject called 'public' ", and " expansion of the description about Japanese territory" and so on. Zenkyo will observe and implement the constitution and struggle resolutely against Abe's "education rebuilding".



On July 14th, protest in front of the Diet. "We won't allow Japan to exercise the right of collective self-defense"

Zenkyo's Campaign for "No Nuclear Power Plant"

Nearly 4 years have passed since the accident of Fukushima Nuclear Power Plants took place. Far from restoring from its damage, it continues spreading. Every Friday, the protest against the nuclear power plants has been made in front of the Prime Minister's office, and these similar campaigns have been conducted in many places all over the country. Zenkyo has actively involved in these actions with other or-

ganizations. More and more people have participated in the campaigns of "NO NUKES DAY", demanding for eliminating nuclear power plants and criticizing the intention of Abe's Cabinet to restart the nuclear power plants. Considerable public support against restarting nuclear power plants has been gained.



On June 28th Zenkyo members at massive demonstration in Tokyo for eliminating the nuclear power plants

Study Tour in Fukushima, " Fukushima wo Miru, Aruku, Kangaeru (Watch, Walk and Think of Affected Areas 3 years and 8 months after the Nuclear Accident)"



In front of the entrance at Ukedo elementary school –convey what we saw to children and colleagues

Zenkyo conducted the third above mentioned tour on November 16th, 2014. It has been 3 years and 8 months since the accident of nuclear power plants occurred. 32 participants visited

the affected area in Fukushima and saw what it was like there now. The comments participants made are following: "What I saw today was exactly what I had seen in fall of 2011, I felt as if time had stopped. We should never forget the terror of the nuclear accident", "It is scary to see Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear plant just located ahead of Ukedo elementary school. Children's safety and security should have been considered as a top priority at school." "The damage of the accident hasn't restored yet, and the radiation in nuclear plants

hasn't been controlled. I think the restart of nuclear power plants is out of the question after looking at the state of the plant. "Visiting and seeing Fukushima, I found that recovery hadn't progressed. I'd like to tell my students and fellow teachers the bare fact when I go back." After attending this tour, all the participants assured that they won't forget March 11th, and that nuclear power plants and human beings can't co-exist, so the restart of nuclear power plants, which Abe Cabinet is trying to proceed, should be stopped.

The Project "Fukushima no kodomo ni Nobinobi Time wo (Let's give relaxing times to children in Fukushima)" December 27th –29th, 2014

Zenkyo has promoted the above mentioned project. As a part of it, Nagano High School Teachers' and Staff Union conducted "Let's have 'Nobinobi Time' for children in Fukushima at Togari Onsen in Shinshu". 11 families, a total of 37 people from Fukushima-prefecture participated in this program. Ms. Nishino, a participant from Iwaki-city with her children aged 8 and 13, said "Iwaki is the area subject to decontaminated. Decontamination in parks has just started. However, houses haven't de-

contaminated yet. Under this circumstance, children are not allowed to play outside. So we really appreciate this program." Ms. Ishii, who participated with her 8 year-old and 6 year-old children said, "This is the first time my children to ski. Thanks to teachers in ski school, their ski skills have really improved." Every participant fully enjoyed skiing and snowboarding.



Parents and Children fully enjoyed the winter season in Shinshu

Both parents and children really spent their wonderful winter time in Shinshu.