

Topic of the conference:

Impact of the Tohoku Earthquake and the accident at the Fukushima-Daiichi nuclear power plant on energy policies in the EU and Japan.

Date:

26th November 2011.

Venus:

Kwansei Gakuin Univ. Uegahara Campus.

Speaker:

Session 1

- ① Mrs. Laure Batut (EESC).
- ② Prof. Dr. Nakase Akifumi (Osaka City Univ.).

Session 2

- ③ Mrs. Eve Päärendson (EESC).
- ④ Prof. Dr. Nomura Munenori (Institute for Industrial Research Kwansei Gakuin University).

Session 3

- ⑤ Mr. Krzysztof Pater (EESC).
- ⑥ Associate Prof. Seki Yoshihiro (Kwansei Gakuin Univ.).

Session 4

- ⑦ Mr. Sandy Boyle (EESC).

Topic:

- ① Nuclear Energy –The EU after FUKUSHIMA-.
- ② The Electric Supply System in Japan and the Accident at the Tohoku Earthquake.
- ③ Energy Policy in the EU after the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant Accident: A Perspective of the Operating Companies.
- ④ The Energy policy after the Tohoku Earthquake.
- ⑤ Disaster Preparedness and Relief Cooperation – The Key Role of Volunteer's Teams (Polish Case).
- ⑥ Civic Activities in the Tohoku Earthquake.
- ⑦ The role of civil society in the EU-Japan Relations.

Outline:

Session 1

- ① First, Mrs. Laure Batut had explained the nuclear energy policy in the EU and the European Strategy “Energy 2020”. There are more than 140 nuclear reactors in the member states of the EU. Many of these reactors are located in close vicinity of large cities. Second, she introduced the “Road Map to 2050” which was established by the EU commission. The main goal of this Road Map is to considerably increase the ratio of renewable energies until 2050.

- ② Prof. Dr. Nakase Akifumi mainly discussed three topics: First, the relation between the electric supply system in Japan and nuclear power generation. Second, whether the nuclear accident after the Tohoku earthquake could have been prevented or not? And final, third, what will be the impact on Japan in case of abandoning nuclear energy generation and shifting the policy towards energy supply from renewable sources? With this respect he emphasized the importance of electric demand adjustment.

Session 2

- ③ Mrs. Eve Päärendson focused on the EU energy policy in reaction to the accident at the Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear power plant. The EU energy policy has three objectives, which are “ensuring security of energy supply”, “enhancing competitiveness” and “ensuring sustainability”. In reacting to the Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear power plant accident, the member states of the EU issued safety reviews and conducted risk and safety assessments of all nuclear reactors in the EU (stress tests).

- ④ Prof. Dr. Nomura Munenori’s lecture concentrated two issues, first ‘The Framework for Compensating for the Damage Caused by the Nuclear Accident’ and, secondly, on ‘Electricity Inter-connector Policies between EU countries’. He emphasized the importance of establishing a similar system of power interchange between Japan and South Korea, which is, however, a very sensitive problem.

Session 3

- ⑤ Mr. Krzysztof Pater talked about the 'Disaster Preparedness and Relief Cooperation' in Poland with particular respect to volunteer groups in his country and in the EU. At the moment there are approximately 94 million volunteers in Europe. With regard to the Polish Case he explained that already in 1921 the "Voluntary Fire Brigades" was established that are utilizing 15,913 fire stations at the moment. In addition to utilizing fire stations, VFB volunteer brigades are equipped and trained to provide help in case of disasters, including disasters caused by chemical accidents.
- ⑥ Associate Prof. Seki Yoshihisa explained problems of disaster volunteers particular with respect to disaster volunteers in the regions affected by the Tohoku Earthquake. The main difference between the Hanshin Earthquake in 1995, and the Tohoku Earthquake has been, that the Tohoku earthquake caused an unprecedented nuclear power plant accident. This resulted in the fact that this time the number of disaster volunteers was much fewer than at the time of the Hanshin Earthquake. With this respect Prof Seki emphasized how important it is that the needs of the victims matches with the help the volunteers are able to provide.

Session 4

- ⑦ Mr. Sandy Boyle in his lecture talked about The European Economic and Social Committee (EESC). The EESC is a consultative body of the European Union. It has 344 members from all 27 EU member states that are representing employers, workers, and other interest groups like consumers farmers etc. Mr. Boyle specifically drew the attention to the role of civil society and the activities of the EESC in particular with respect to the economic crisis, the demographic change and Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR). Ending his speech he emphasized the need for EU-Japan cooperation also on the level of civil society organizations.

After the lectures, floor and speakers discussed various problems, reaching from, for example, the problem of civility, the measures of electric demand adjustment in Japan, and the function of EESC.

Number of Audiences:

25 students and 15 visitors.