

**Job creation
for and by young people
while protecting
the environment:**



"Nanohana" Project

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1. Background to my report

- (1) Safety Net Crisis in Japan
- (2) The results of “Welfare” policies that relied too much on corporations
- (3) Fragile food self-sufficiency in Japan (40%): Agriculture & environment
- (4) Regime Change in Japan: Autumn 2009
- (5) Growing interests in associated work (trabajo asociado), toward the Law on Associated Workers’ Co-operatives

1-(1). Safety Net Crisis in Japan

- Japan's **relative poverty rate** in 2004 (14.9%) was the fourth highest among the 30 member countries, after Mexico, Turkey and the United States.
 - That of one parent family: 54.3% (2006)
--> worst one among 30 OECD countries
- **No-decent workers** who are out of the unemployment allowance and out of the workers' compensation for a industrial accident have rapidly increased in number.

1-(2). The results of “Welfare” policies that relied too much on corporations

- Japan has gained its economic power not through social welfare but through employment benefits (“welfare capitalism” or **welfare by corporations**) since 1950s’.
- Now, there are less jobs & more irregular jobs in such a informal economies under the name of “diverse employment” -> **More Working Poor**, firing temporary workers, refusing to renew job contracts since the Lehman Brothers’ collapse

1-(3). Fragile food self-sufficiency in Japan (40%): Agriculture & environment in especial climate

- Global inflation in grain prices, food wars
- In Japan, “No farmland” & aging of farmers (60% farmers are aged 65+)
- Currently: ~3.6a (360m²) per Capita
 - Need: ~13a (1,300 m²) per Capita
- Similar in South Korea and Switzerland
< Exceptional in WTO >

1-(4). Regime Change in Japan: Autumn 2009

- From “Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) to “Democratic Party of Japan (DPJ)”
- A golden opportunity for making welfare the real social policy (Departure from “welfare capitalism”)
- Was Neoliberalism Ddefeated in Japan?
 - (Yes and No) !?
 - A new step toward a struggle against neoliberalism --- the rearity is political power complex.



1-(5). Growing interests in associated work toward the Law on Associated Workers' Co-operatives (part 1)

- Dr. Laidlaw's report (1980 at ICA General Assembly)
 - *"A serious weakness in co-operative business, generally speaking, is relationship between employer and employee, because it is no different from that in private business generally."* (9. The Co-operative as Employer, "Co-operatives in the Year 2000," A F. Laidlaw)
- This bill on Associated Workers' Co-operatives support new relationship under the "trinity system," the three persons of each co-op. member; share holder, worker and manager.

1-(5). Growing interests in associated work toward the Law on Associated Workers' Co-operatives (part 2)

- “Associated work” comprises co-operations of three dimensions.
 - Co-operation among member-workers
 - Co-operation between member-workers and users
 - Co-operation with neighborhood community
- 700/1,800 municipalities have agreed to submit “Statements of Opinion” for the immediate approval of the legislation to the appropriate national authorities.

2. Prehistory of Nanohana Project

(1) School of Independence for Youth started in 2005



(2) The 13th term ended in November 2008

(1) In the year of 2005:

- Japan Workers' Co-op Union was selected to run "School of Independence for Youth" (Wakamono Jiritsu Juku), designed by Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare.
- September 2005: Launched Worker Co-op School of Independence for Youth.
 - 3 months/term.
 - Peer consulting
 - Learning by teaching (LdL: Lernen durch Lehren, Jean-Pol Martin)

(2) The 13th term ended in November 2008

- Of 84 School graduates, 15 work at worker co-ops.
- At the same time, Worker Co-op also launched “Youth Support Station” to provide assistance for NEETs (Not in Education, Employment or Training), designed by Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare, also.
- 2007: Osaki City (Miyagi Prefecture) and Niigata City (Niigata Prefecture)
- 2008: Asahikawa City (Hokkaido Prefecture) and Shinjuku City (Tokyo)
- In Osaki City, there were 2,389 visits, 1,354 consultations and 167 registrants -> 69 attained employment (July 2007 ~ October 2008)

3. Starting Nanohana Project

- Started as a network of Shibayama City (close to Narita Airport), Narita International Airport Corporation and Worker Co-op.
- Planted a new variety of Rapeseeds (erucic-acid free)
 - “Kizaki-no-Natane” (1991)
 - “Nanashikibu” (2002: better suited for warmer regions than Kizaki-no-Natane)
- Project that combines job creation of youth, environment and agriculture

4. Looking Ahead

- (1) Expanding the project nationwide
- (2) Spreading Associated (Cooperative) Work
- (3) Starting Nanohana Projects at 1% of the abandoned farmland in each prefecture
- (4) Improving food self-sufficiency (Rapeseed oil: 0.04% → 0.4%)

(1) Expanding the project nationwide

- Saitama Prefecture: As a multifaceted project (e.g., together with food production)
- Chiba Prefecture: Developing the project near local airports throughout the nation
- Miyagi Prefecture: As an inter-cooperation project

(2) Spreading Associated (Cooperative) Work

- We are about to see the Law on Associated Workers' Co-operatives in Japan
- New types of job training/Rural Community Welfare Centers
- Farming worker co-ops to strengthen harmony between independent farmers and associated work

(3) Starting Nanohana Projects at 1% of the abandoned farmland in each prefecture

- Abandoned farmland in Japan: 380,000 ha (similar to the size of Saitama Prefecture)
- Attractive features of farming, food security

(4) Improving food self-sufficiency

- Rapeseed oil: from 0.04% to 0.4%)



5. Last but NOT the Least...

Please Give Us Any Information
on “Agriculture and Worker Co-ops.”



Vobis Gratias Ago!