

## **Declaration of the 65th Central Committee Meeting of Doro-Chiba**

June 26, 2011

On June 26, 2011, the 65th Regular Central Committee Meeting of Doro-Chiba was held in the Union Hall. We have made a positive evaluation of the results of our utmost efforts in the Spring Labor Offensive 2011. We resolutely coped with the serious crisis of labor movement which stepped back further after the Huge East Japan Earthquake and confronted militantly the drastic development of anti-labor management policy of Japan Railway East Company (JR East). We unanimously approved the new policy focused on the struggles against the restructuring and newly opening of yards and depots, the full outsourcing of station operations and the revising of wage system.

The JR East intended to start on April 1 an overall outsourcing of yard operations and inspection and repair works but Doro-Chiba totally blocked its implementation. The East Japan Railway Workers' Union collaborated closely with JR management and worked as its pawns to conceal deceptive contracting and to promote outsourcing. However, our resolute struggles for these ten years has clearly proved that it is possible to fight back against the brutal enemy attack if we remain thoroughly committed to our principles to organize solidarity and strengthen unity in our workplaces and fight militantly with an effective strategy of striking the vulnerable and contradictory parts of the management.

Things have completely changed since the Huge East Japan Earthquake hit on March 11. The death toll and the numbers of missing people exceeded 28,000. More than 140,000 affected people are still forced to live as evacuees. Everything has contaminated by radioactive materials continuously emanating from the wrecked Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Plant, which underwent full meltdown and hydrogen explosions. Countless numbers of people are still exposed to radiation. Already hundreds and thousands of people lost their jobs under the pretext of the earthquake.

The catastrophe caused by the huge earthquake, subsequent tsunamis and the nuclear plant accident is NOT an "unexpected" disaster. It had been already predicted that there was "a 99 percent certainty of such a massive earthquake that would occur within ten

years” in these coast areas. The 1896 Meiji-Sanriku (Northeast Japan coast) Earthquake caused a highly destructive tsunami and the wave heights were measured up to 38 meters (125 feet).

Those who have repeated thousand times big lies like “totally safe” or “clean energy” and have promoted the construction of nuclear plants for decades on the earthquake nests (seismically active zone) are such people who belong to so called “the nuclear village” composed of high officials and bureaucrats of the government, the people of business world and the docile scholars bribed by the government and capital. The government and the business leaders are still insisting, “It is not the level of immediate impact on health” even in the time of such great emergency. Their aim is only to maintain and promote their nuclear energy policy. What is going on now is just a crime of the state and capital.

The situation of workers had already reached a critical point when the earthquake hit. Numerous workers were driven into the state of temporary workers or working poor. While the social security system has been considerably dismantled, it has been more and more difficult for those workers to survive every day. The Huge East Japan Earthquake occurred in such critical circumstances. A massive unemployment is now taking hold in Japan. Farming and fishery industries are suffering from devastating damage. Not only workers but also farmers and fishers are forced to lose their jobs. Now is the time to fight to live!

Japanese labor movement is now in a serious crisis. Systematic ideological campaign for reconstruction (of Japanese capitalism) in the name of “national emergency” and “all-out national mobilization” is being carried out to sweep away the class struggle viewpoint from Japanese society.

Major supporter of nuclear plant construction was and is union bosses of Rengo (Japanese Trade Union Confederation), completely co-opting with big business. Zenroren (National Confederation of Trade Unions), another national trade union center under the political leadership of Japan Communist Party, has also maintained a position of endorsing “peaceful use of nuclear power”. The things arising now could be described as “criminal commitment of labor unions”, too.

In face of this outrageous situation, angry voices are spreading all over Japan, demanding a fundamental change of the existing system, which is completely rotten in every field. Now is the time militant labor union revives!

JR Companies have launched a new move. On June 10, Chiba branch of JR East has proposed a large-scale reshaping scheme of transportation bases: abolition of Choshi driving yard and Narita conductors' yard and setting-up of new transport yards in Sakura and Choshi; outsourcing of yard operation of Keiyo Car Center. The headquarters of JR East is planning "a new personnel and wage system to be put in practice in autumn. The essential core of all these attempts concerns crucial agendas of labor union: abolition and merging of workplaces, that are the vital base of labor unity; outsourcing connected with personnel reduction; wage issue, etc. We must crush by all means the attempts of reorganizing transport bases, outsourcing of jobs and attack on wage. As for the much disputed issue of "25 year Problem" (unsolved issues after the Division and Privatization of Japan National Railway, which will face 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary in coming 2012, such as the cargo section of JR companies, which is still in red letters for a quarter of century), JR Cargo has decided to put off the difficult issues and to concentrate its effort in building up a system to transfer all inevitable sacrifices to cargo workers. A fresh struggle is needed in JR Cargo.

A grave phase is coming over the issue of the dismissed 1047 national railway workers. The "Four Parties and Four Bodies" and the Coordinating Conference, which had long insisted that the struggle should not end without solving the employment issue, declared on June 24 to "put and end to the struggle" and to dissolve their organizations. In line with this move, Kokuro (National Railway Workers Union) headquarters is planning to bring about revision of the union constitution that should stipulate: "Only the employees of JR are qualified as union member of Kokuro" (to exclude dismissed workers from the membership) on coming national convention in July. The corrupt union bosses of Kokuro intend to move to the position of labor-capital cooperation and to identify with the political line of Rengo. Let's achieve an over-all development of the Nationwide Campaign of National Railway Struggle!

Another important move is going on in JR East: decisive change of the labor policy of JR East Company and the end and collapse of labor-capital collusion system. It means a moment of "the showdown over the whole results of the Division and Privatization of National Railway" has come. Control of workplaces or power relationship in workplaces is going to face a drastic reorganization. We are required to tackle this problem effectively and to turn it into an opportunity to fight back. A fresh step forward for a great leap has been achieved by setting up a committee for reconstruction of labor

youth section of Doro-Chiba.

We call on all union members to rise up for a struggle against the major issue of capital's offensive, such as the reshaping of the transport bases and the attempt of outsourcing with an aim of organizing a more powerful union.

Stop the implementation of outsourcing on October 1 and the reshaping of the transport bases.

March 11 disaster was caused as a result of the failure of neo-liberal policy that has been carried on for a quarter of century since the Division and Privatization of National Railway and has deprived all objective as well as subjective resisting forces against calamities and accidents in its greedy pursuit of profit. It is urgent for us to revive militant labor union from workplace to confront neo-liberal offensive. Kan administration is attempting to overcome the present crisis of ruling class by means of political repression and implementation of reactionary policies, such as the recent brutal crackdowns on Kan-Nama (Solidarity Union of Japan Construction and Transport Workers Kansai Area Branch) and on fighting farmers in Sanrizuka. The ruling class has no alternative than to resort to bloody attack on working class and people. The time has come to fight.

All power to organize militant and powerful union!

Struggle in workplaces and the nation-wide campaign for national railway struggle are the two basic pillars of our struggle to confront the present situation.

This is our declaration.