

Declaration of Doro-Chiba Convention

The 40th Regular Convention of Doro-Chiba, held in the union's Headquarters in Chiba city, has unanimously resolved a new policy of our struggle, based on the recognition of the achievement of our victorious fight for the past year.

It has been confirmed among others that we have successfully blocked the plan of the Japan Railway (JR) East Company of outsourcing yard work in Keiyo Line due to start on October 1st. Three months' all-out struggle since the announcement of the outsourcing plan forced the company to abandon it. It marks the highlight of our struggle for past one year.

Of course it doesn't mean the Chiba Office of JR East Company has decisively given up its outsourcing scheme. It will desperately endeavor to get a concrete result in outsourcing even if the original plan is obliged to scale down. We are not at all satisfied with our present achievement. We should by all means crush the outsourcing plan that totally destroys rail safety as well as workers' employment and future.

The March 11th East Japan Earthquake, Tsunami and subsequent nuclear plant accident all at once took huge number of human lives, demolished daily activities and works and are still seriously threatening numerous people with high level radioactive exposure. Farming and fishery are devastated and increasing number of workers is being thrown out of job on the street. The March 11th has fundamentally changed the whole situation.

It is to be noted that the disaster has become catastrophic by a series of neo-liberal agenda, started by the Division and Privatization of National Railway and followed by privatization of public infrastructure, financial burden of local administration, endless reduction of number of public service workers etc., that all resulted in depriving local communities of resisting power to natural disaster. The nuclear plant accident has blatantly exposed among others the lie and fraud of the nuclear policy that had been jointly carried out by the government, bureaucrats, business circle, bribed scholars, mass media, the courts and system-friendly labor unions for their dirty and egoistic interests and profits and for the pursuit of nuclear armament of Japan. Together with this, the true essence of the corrupt ruling system has also been revealed for public eyes. What is happening is a crime committed by capital and the state. 30 years of neo-liberalism has brought about a society, in which human beings can no longer live a human life.

In face of this situation, workers have begun to rise up for a struggle to live in a large number. Their angry voices are prevailing in the whole society and expressing themselves in fierce struggle against nuclear plants and unemployment. Indignation of two million inhabitants of stricken Fukushima Prefecture is focused upon the government that is still insisting that the whole situation is developing in a "safe" way, concealing all the facts about the catastrophe. On September 19th, 60,000 people took to the street for a tremendous demonstration of boiling anger. The time faces a turning point. Labor unions are now requested to regain its power.

The Noda administration and the business circle have openly proclaimed a policy to

promote nuclear plant. In the name of “reconstruction”, they are intending to set up a “special zone” in the affected areas to carry out overall privatization and to halt the application of Labor Standard Act there. Public service workers are faced with an imminent threat of wage cut and all-out abolition of the whole 3,600,000 jobs to reduce them into irregular employment under the name of “reform of public service system” by an government executive order. Further a violent tax hike is being planned. Their fundamental aim is to carry out ultimate neo-liberal agenda as an only way of “reconstruction”.

The crisis of capitalist system is continuously deepening. The global economic crisis that has precipitated by the Lehman Shock three years ago has caused the full scale financial catastrophe in the US and EU countries as well as in Japan. The financial collapse has driven capitalists to escalate attacks on workers. What is now really needed is to revitalize militant labor unions.

The circumstance surrounding JR has been changing drastically since the agreement of the “political settlement” of the struggle for reinstatement of unlawfully fired 1047 national railway workers. The so-called “political settlement” was planned to end the unsolved issues after the Division and Privatization of Japan National Railways in order to enforce the policy to implement privatization on a broad scale that would bury our whole society.

However, we have started a new nationwide movement with a call: “Don’t put out the fire of national railway struggle”. We are militantly facing off against this neoliberal policy and thus our movement is gradually spreading all over the country. We shall not obscure the fundamental issue of the Division and Privatization of Japan National Railways.

The East Japan Railway Workers’ Union, the co-opted labor union, has the intention to fully accept the overall outsourcing plan toward the end of this fiscal year, saying that it is to “settle at once both the new personnel and wage system and the subcontracting of yard operations and repair works”. Our struggle against massive restructuring of yards and depots and newly opening of Sakura Depot is at a decisive final stage. At the end of this fiscal year, that is the end of next March, the massive layoff of contracted workers who engage in the service to customers will be forced through. The collapse of safety is becoming more serious.

In face of the accident that an express train derailed and caught fire in the tunnel last May in Hokkaido, the president of JR Hokkaido recently committed suicide. It represents the inherent contradiction in the division and privatization and that the scheme is totally on the verge of collapse.

Stop outsourcing and reinstate the fired workers!

We shall never accept the deceptive subcontracting practices that precipitate workers to precarious employment!

No to massive restructuring of yards and deposits!

Stop revising the personnel and wage system!

We fight for the establishment of rail safety!

Let's take appropriate measures immediately to wage strikes!

Labor movements now stand at a crucial crossroads. But the time is now full of hope and possibility. It is the time to revitalize labor movements and we can do it. We dedicate all our strength focusing on the National Workers' All-Out Rally on November 6.

Confront the historical situation that came after the Huge Earthquake and mobilize 10 thousand people to the November Rally!

All members of our union should stand up for the struggle to expand our organization that is essential for Doro-Chiba to continue fighting.

Here we announce our firm determination.

September 26, 2011

40th Regular Convention of Doro-Chiba