

このたび、第 79 期の会長に選任され、その重責に身の引き締まる思いです。先人たちが築いてきた伝統の上に立ち、会員皆さまのご協力を得て学会をますます盛り上げるべく微力を尽くして参ります。

令和 4 年度の 1 年間、田島節子前会長のもと副会長として学会運営に関わり、様々なことを学ぶことができました。同時にこれからの課題もはっきり見えてきました。大きな課題として、会員数の減少問題と大会・年会の開催問題が挙げられます。後者は、学会の最も重要な事業ですので、最優先に取り組むべき喫緊の問題です。田島前会長が、大規模大学に対して将来の開催地候補としての可能性を探り、また開催校の実行委員会の負担を軽減する方式に変更し、ある程度の見通しができたと言っているかと思いますが、それをもとに毎年の大会・年会を実施していくのは我々の責任であります。また、オンライン形式と現地開催形式の交互開催というやりかたも今後の動向を見ながら最適化する必要があると感じています。

会員数減少問題は、学会の財務に直結するだけでなく、我が国全体の研究力低下問題にも関わる重大なことです。1、2 年の短期に解決できる問題ではありませんが、不断の努力が必要な問題といえます。18 歳人口の減少や産業構造の変化など、一学会としてはどうすることもできない社会的背景が大きな要因であることは様々な調査から明らかになっていますが、それにしても本会としてもっと努力する余地が多くあると感じています。対策として 2 つの方向性を考えています。一つは物理学のフロンティアを広げること、二つ目は学生・若手研究者や留学生・外国人研究者への働きかけを強化することです。

今、データ科学や人工知能、量子計算が、従来の計算物理の枠を超えてさまざまな分野で急速に展開されつつあります。本会にその動きをしっかりと取り込み、それを学会活性化の起爆剤にしたいと考えています。それぞれの分野、領域で点在するそれらのトピックスを集めて横のつながりを作り、さらには産業界や一般市民、高校生・大学生にも見える形にすれば、常に進化する物理学の魅力と有用性が伝わるのではないかと考えています。

また、もっと広く高校生や大学前期程度の若者たちにしっかりと顔が向いている学会だというアピールができないかと考えています。私が学生時代に重宝した物理学会の「論文選集」は廃止されて久しいですが、各専門分野へ

の新規参入者たちに役立つ入門書的な書籍の出版は学会の役目かもしれませんが。また、理科好きの一般市民や高校生を受け入れる「会友」制度が本会には存在しますが、会友にとって魅力的なコンテンツを増やして会友を格段に増やし、将来会員になってくれる若手や物理学会のシンパを増やしたいと夢見ています。コロナ禍を機に始まったオンライン物理講話は会友・会員に好評を得ており、さらに昨年、会員が行ったプレスリリースのまとめサイトを本会ホームページ上に新設して、会友メルマガで配信することを始めました。また、Youtubeなども活用して各会員が行っているアウトリーチ活動と協同することも考えられます。会員の皆様のお知恵を拝借できれば幸いです。

さらに、学生会員や若手研究者たちにとって、研究交流だけでなく就職活動やキャリアパスなどの情報交換の場を作ることも重要と考えています。年2回の年会・大会での交流は貴重な機会ですが、オンライン大会が増えた現状では、違った形での交流の場が若手に必要だという声をよく聞きます。若手や学生会員たちは、シニアの会員が想像よりよりも深刻にコロナ禍の影響を受けているようで、若者の孤立化の傾向が強まっているとの話も聞きます。若手・学生会員の相互交流のプラットフォームづくりを本会がお手伝いできる仕組みを検討したいと思っています。

最近の大学入試の動向をみると、理学・工学系進学志望の高校生、とくに女子生徒が増えているようで、心強い限りです。一方、従前から活動してきた本会の男女共同参画推進委員会を、令和4年度にダイバシティ推進委員会と改称し、ジェンダーギャップの問題だけでなく、留学生や外国人研究者に対してもっと目配りする形ができないか検討したいと考えています。日本語ができない会員にも満足してもらえる学会、母国に帰国してからも本会の会員を継続したいと思える学会にするにはどうしたらいいのか。会員の皆様のご理解とご協力、あるいはご提案をお願いいたします。

I have been elected as the president of the 79th term of JPS, humbled by the heavy responsibility. Standing on the traditions established by our predecessors, I will do my best to enliven the society with the cooperation of all members.

During FY 2022, I was involved in the management of the society as a vice president under former president Setsuko Tajima, and I was able to learn various things. At the same time, the challenges ahead have become clear. Major issues include the problem of a decrease in the number of memberships and the problem of holding our annual meetings twice a year. The latter is the most important project of the academic society, so it is an urgent issue that should be addressed with the highest priority. Former President Tajima explored the possibility of large-scale universities as candidates for future venues and changed the implementation method to reduce the burden on the host school's executive committee. It is our responsibility to carry out the annual meetings based on that. Also, I feel that it is necessary to optimize the method of alternately holding the online format and the face-to-face format of the meetings while watching future trends.

The problem of declining membership is not only directly linked to the finances of our society, but it is also a serious matter that is related to the problem of declining research capabilities in Japan as a whole. Although it is so big issue that we will not be able to improve the situation quickly, we need to continue the effort against it. Various surveys have shown that social backgrounds beyond our control, such as the declining population of 18-year-olds and changes in the industrial structure, are major factors. I feel, however, there are plenty of room in our society to improve the situation. I am considering two directions as countermeasures. The first is to expand the frontiers of physics, and the second is to strengthen our approach to students, young researchers, international students, and foreign researchers.

Today, data science, artificial intelligence, and quantum computing are rapidly expanding beyond the framework of conventional computational physics in various fields. I would like to firmly incorporate this movement into

our society and use it as a trigger to revitalize our society. If we collect these topics scattered in each field and area, create horizontal connections, and make them visible to industry, the general public, high school students and university students, we can show the appeal and usefulness of the ever-evolving physics.

Also, I think that we can appeal to a wider range of young people, such as high school students and pre-university students, that we are an academic society that is open to the public. It has been a long time since the Physics Society's "Paper Collection", which I found useful when I was a student, has been abolished. But perhaps it is the society's role to publish introductory books that are useful for newcomers to each specialized field. In addition, since there is a "friendship (Kaiyu)" system that accepts science-loving general citizens and high school students in the Society, we will try to increase the number of members by more attractive contents for them, hoping to attract young people who will become JPS members in the future and the sympathizers of physics. The online lectures on physics, which began in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, have been well received by our Kaiyu's and members. In addition, last year, we set up a new site on our website that summarizes the press releases made by our members and decided to distribute it in our members' e-mail magazine. Furthermore, it will be also possible to cooperate with outreach activities conducted by JPS members on Youtube etc. I would appreciate it if I could borrow the wisdom of all the members.

Furthermore, I think it important to create opportunities for student members and young researchers for not only exchanging research ideas/results, but also exchanging information about job hunting and career paths. Interaction at the annual meetings held twice a year is a valuable opportunity for young people, but with the increase in online meetings, I often hear that young people need different forms/opportunities of interaction. I hear that young and student members seem to be more seriously affected by the corona crisis than senior members imagine, and that the tendency for young people to isolate themselves is increasing. We would like to consider a system in which our society can help create a platform for mutual exchanges between young and student members.

Looking at recent trends in university entrance exams, it is encouraging to

see an increase in the number of high school students, especially female students, who wish to pursue science or engineering. On the other hand, the Gender Equality Promotion Committee of the Society, which has been active for a long time, was renamed the Diversity Promotion Committee in 2022, for more intensive attention not only to the gender gap problem, but also to international students and foreign researchers. What should we do to improve our society that satisfies members who cannot speak Japanese, and that makes them want to continue being members of our society even after returning to their home countries? I would like to ask for the understanding and cooperation of all members, as well as any suggestions.