

## **Declaration of the 14<sup>th</sup> RENGO Biennial Convention**

We shall never forgive the tyranny by the Government of Japan and the ruling parties in the 189<sup>th</sup> ordinary session of the Diet.

The first instance of their reckless deeds is the deterioration of the Act for Securing the Proper Operation of Worker Dispatching Undertakings and Improved Working Conditions for Dispatched Workers ("the Worker Dispatch Act"). The revision of the Worker Dispatch Act in this Diet session greatly deviates from the world's norm of "principle of equal treatment" and "dispatching is to be limited to temporary work." Instead, the revision promotes lifetime dispatches at low wages.

Another instance is the strong-armed adoption of national security laws through numerical force in the Diet. Many citizens have voiced opposition and doubts, claiming "lack of explanations" and "insufficient discussions." The legal community has also made observations that such laws violate the Constitution of Japan. Despite these concerns, the Government has neglected to seek the understanding of the people and form consensus, and rammed the adoption of the laws through the Diet. This is defiance against democracy. It is something that absolutely cannot be permitted.

In addition, while the Government has trumpeted the effects of so-called "Abenomics," the poverty rate in Japan has increased, and inequality is worsening. The number of the working poor with annual income of 2 million yen or less now exceeds 11 million. There is also no end in sight to so-called "black companies," sweatshops that cast workers aside. An economic virtuous cycle, to be virtuous, precisely requires "raising and supporting a basic economic level" and "reducing inequalities." However, in order to "make Japan the easiest country for companies to work in," the Government is seeking to destroy worker protection rules. We must not accept a growth strategy that sacrifices workers.

RENGO is channeling the anger of each worker into a massive force that transforms society. We are working to extend collective labor-management relations to every corner of society and expand the circle of working people to support one another and help one another. At the same time, we are continuing to devote our efforts to rebuilding and revitalizing Japan without letting the memories of the Great East Japan Earthquake fade.

What we seek is a society in which all people can find a place to belong and thrive, and lead vigorous, irreplaceable lives. In short, it is a society in which the most important values are placed on working, and a society in which everyone can participate through fair working conditions and diverse working styles. It is a "secure society based on work," in which safety nets are embedded.

Let's join together to confront injustice in society and return hope and security to all workers and people.

The 24<sup>th</sup> Election of the House of Councilors next year will be a critical battle. To stop the enormous ruling parties from running amok and to reflect the voices of workers in the government, RENGO is harnessing the total strength of its 6.82 million members to elect not only the 12 candidates that represent RENGO but all recommended candidates.

We are launching a new labor movement based on our Action Policies adopted at this Biennial Convention.

"No" to inequalities! Let us create a secure society by bringing all working people into the RENGO Circle!

October 7, 2015  
14<sup>th</sup> RENGO Biennial Convention