Asia-Pacific Research

Reiwa Shinsengumi: A New Unconventional Politician has Emerged in Japan. Power to the People!

By Reiwa Shinsengumi for the World
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Taro Yamamoto: *A young, unconventional, new politician has appeared in Japan, becoming the eye of a typhoon, just as Bernie Sanders, Ocasio-Cortez and Jeremy Corbyn did.*

He clearly stands for anti-globalism, anti-austerity, and anti-government, set out with 10 candidates, and is challenging the July 21 House of Councillors (Upper House) elections.

Because he is leading a new political party, and because the incumbent government has put pressure on the media by the self-censoring and unlawful coverage rule, he and his party, the opposition and an emerging force, do not appear in the mass media at all. It is completely unfair and disappointing. Still, mainly via social media, they have gained momentum to collect a broad audience at street rally and donations of nearly 300 million yen in less than three months. It is a case that should be given global attention as a new trend in Japan.

Their main foci are anti-poverty and anti-globalism. Also, at the top of their proportional representation list, there are two severely disabled people. Such people have never stood as candidates in Japan until today. So if they, who are said to have a good chance of being elected, were to have a seat in the National Diet, the Diet will be urged to take numerous measures such as barrier-free operation, etc. Although that is a natural response before the Paralympics scheduled to be held next year, since Japan has a history of isolating people with disabilities, it will be a landmark event with a tremendous impact. Apart from them, there are highly talented and unique candidates who are keen to expose the deep state of Japan such as TEPCO, Seven-Eleven, Heizo Takenaka, the SGI, and the "Special Account." It is not only a revolt: almost no one could have imagined in Japan where ostrich policies have long been practiced but also affection for the minorities and the eye of a typhoon not covered by the media.

We hope those new stars who are linked to the global anti-globalism movement are given a fair opportunity to hold a press conference. Only you, FCCJ can make it happen.

What's?

REIWA SHINSENGUMI is a new political party which is nominating ten candidates for the House of Councilors elections taking place on Sunday, July 21. The party is led by **Sen. Taro Yamamoto**, an incumbent at the House of Councilors and former co-representative of

JIYUTO (the Liberal Party) headed by Ichiro Ozawa. On April 10 this year, however, Sen. Yamamoto launched a new party himself.

The nine candidates who gathered under Yamamoto have been active as a concerned stakeholder, appealing political issues in their respective fields.

Yoshimasa Nohara, member of the senior segment of Okinawa SGI appealed for its reform and got ostracized.

Ayumi Yasutomi, a professor at the University of Tokyo, appealed that protecting children should be at the core of the basic principle of politics.

Eiko Kimura has been supporting independence of people with disabilities despite having severe disability herself.

Yoshifumi Mitsui revealed and questioned the realities of the exploitation of convenience store franchise as former owner of 7-Eleven store.

Toru Hasuike has appealed the dangers of nuclear power plants based on his experience as a former TEPCO employee.

Chihiro Tsujimura, a staff member of an environmental protection NGO, kept raising questions on excessive economic growth that involves destruction of nature.

Tsuneki Onishi has nailed the lies about the lack of financial resources claimed by the government, based on his experience in the finance industry.

Yasuhiko Funago wears two hats as a company manager and a guitarist while having the incurable disease ALS.

Teruko Watanabe is a former temporary worker and a single mother, who has devoted herself to unfair dismissal and women's labor issues.

Our Commitment

Protecting our nation begins by protecting you, the citizens.

Protecting you requires uncompromising political efforts to ensure that you are free of concerns for tomorrow's livelihood, that you may live your life with confidence and dignity.

This requires a political force to stand at the front line, against the injustices cast upon you, so that we may build a society in which you are given an abundance of opportunities to rise again.

We need to radically enhance the lives of the people oppressed from 20 years of deflation, including the lives of the "Lost Generation" from the employment ice age of the 90's and 2000's.

We will build a society where all citizens may live without needing to fear for their future. "All citizens" includes those without high school diplomats or college degrees, those who are temporary workers or are unemployed, and those with disabilities or with medical difficulties.

We are here to serve all the people who live in this country.

That is the mission of Reiwa Shinsengumi.

8 Urgent Policies

1) Abolish consumption tax:

Consumption tax which artificially raises commodity prices should be reduced to 0%. Prices will fall, real wages will rise, and economy will be boosted. Estimation conducted by House of Councilors Research Data Office shows that □□annual income per capita will increase by 440,000 yen within 6 years after abolishment of consumption tax.

2) Nation-wide wage of 1500 yen with government subsidy:

Nation-wide minimum wage of 1500 yen for the time being with government subsidies for businesses in deficit. Ultimate solution for rural revitalization, national economic recovery, and deconcentration of Tokyo Metropolitan Area. Simultaneously, social welfare criteria will be raised in accordance with minimum wage. Aiming for zero households with annual income below 2 million yen.

3) Student loan exception decree: Debt relief for 5.55 million people struggling with student loans.

4) Increase Civil Service Workers:

Incorporate childcare, nursing, assistance for disabled persons, Fukushima nuclear plant relief work into the public sector. These fields facing severe budget cuts have great potential for growth. For every 10,000 citizens, the number of civil servants in Japan is a third of that in the UK and half of that in the US. Increase civil servants. Provision of stable employment is an effective economic strategy.

5) Household income subsidy for primary sector workers:

Food security is the most vital component of our national security. Radical reformation needed to increase our food self-sufficiency ratio from its current low level up to 100% self-sufficiency. Primary sector workers will be ensured financial security with government subsidy per household income.

6) Revision and abolishment of “Unacceptable Laws”

TPP Agreement, Act on Promotion of Private Finance Initiatives (PFI), Water Utility Act, Casino Implementation Act, Fisheries Act, Immigration Control Act, Abolishment of Seed Act, Secret Information Protection Act, National Strategic Special Zone Act, partial revision of Income Tax Act, Temporary Agency Work Act, “Peace and Security Preservation” (Military) Legislation, Criminal Procedure Code, Anti-conspiracy legislation, etc.

7) Cessation of new base construction in Henoko Bay, Okinawa

8) Immediate prohibition of nuclear power to prevent radiation exposure

Continued and extended support for afflicted people and victims of TEPCO nuclear disaster.

Taro Yamamoto

He is the leader of the emerging new party.

See how he was back then:

And see where he is now.

Message of Taro Yamamoto, a Japanese Rebel politician with English subtitle. Listen and watch this and this.

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