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Reflecting on the “Existence of the Emperor” on 3-11

By HANAOKA Nobuaki

Bowing down low or curtsying, the Emperor and Empress spoke to each individual who had become a victim affectionately. Waiting until March 30th so it would not interfere with the aid and relief work, the Emperor paid a visit to the emergency evacuation area. Eyes were moist with tears when the Emperor gave a message to the people, announcing that there will be a scheduled power stoppage put into action every day. During this biggest catastrophe post-WWII, I reconsider the meaning of “Existence of the Emperor”.

First of all, the term “The Emperor System of Japan” exists, but is this truly appropriate? When you use the word “system,” you will get “a systemized institution” as a result. It is possible to change a “systemized institution.” In the constitution, it is better to originally not have the Emperor Article.

When something is written in the constitution, it means that it is available for revision and amendments. There is the relationship between Japan and its Emperor neither too close to nor too remote from, and in this microcosm called Japan, there is an Emperor who never take any political actions. This is the Japanese Identity, and it is in the basics of our sense of community. “The Existence of the Emperor” in Japan, seen from the stability of the ruling system’s point of view, is something that we can be proud of.

The presidential system in the United States of America, as seen from this ruling system’s point of view, may be regarded as something that embodies democracy, but this is nothing compared with Japan. To make it short, even though we have no more than sloppy Prime Minister (I’m not referring only to the current person), the reason why this country still stay alive is what this country possesses a Prime Minister who remains only at the top of the political and administrative field. Although Prime Minister KAN has a strong attachment to the local inspection, I suspect that if he were to visit the stricken places, there would not be anybody with tears in their eyes. In fact, there may even be rocks thrown his way. The event of 3-11 is an opportunity that brings us to reconsider about the state of this

country called Japan.

(This is an English translation of the article written by Mr. HANAOKA Nobuaki, Professor of Takushoku University, which originally appeared on the BBS “Hyakka-Somei” of CEAC on April 1, 2011).