

The Japan Institute for National Fundamentals will sponsor a seminar on April 3 to mark a visit to Japan by Dr. Lobsang Sangay, Prime Minister of the Central Tibetan Administration, the Tibetan government in exile. It will provide a good opportunity to consider desirable basic values in the world in the 21st century.

China is the source of problems

The international community now sees growing lawless and anti-democratic moves. The United Nations and the international community have failed to address Syrian President Bashar al-Assad's killing of more than 8,500 citizens or Iran's nuclear development.

China and Russia twice vetoed a U.N. Security Council resolution condemning Syrian President Assad and warning of sanctions. China has remained the world's largest buyer of Iranian oil to effectively support Iran's move to own nuclear weapons.

North Korea has been involved in Iran's nuclear development, sending nuclear-related materials aboard container ships to Iran via Dalian and Shanghai. The Chinese government has given a tacit nod to such North Korean moves, siding with North Korea and Iran.

China has been cracking down on the Arab Spring democratic movements and proliferating nuclear weapons in the world. China is the principal source of problems in the 21st century.

Three races cracked down on

Suffering tyranny of such China are Tibetan, Uyghur and Inner Mongolian people. The Chinese Communist Party does not approve the three races as nations (races that can form independent countries) but defines them as "ethnic groups." Based on such strange literal trick, it refuses to allow the three races to become independent. China even denies the presence of these races by prohibiting Tibetan people from believing in Tibetan Buddhism or using Tibetan language and Uyghur people from believing in Muslim or using Uyghur language. China forces these people to become Chinese. The reason young Tibetan priests set them on fire one after another is their protest to the Chinese government's attempt to effectively eliminate the Tibetan race.

At a time when the Chinese government toughens a crackdown on Uyghur and Mongolian people as well as Tibetans, Japan as an Asian power and its people are responsible for making Prime Minister Sangay's Japan visit meaningful.

Various considerations have been made on the Chinese government's objection and interruption against our plan to invite Prime Minister Sangay to our seminar. Eventually, I myself have chaired a committee to invite the Tibetan leader. I have found that the Chinese pressure has led some Japanese people to get afraid of and side with China. Therefore, the seminar will provide an opportunity for Japanese people to question not only values in the international community in the 21 century but also Japan's values and how to deal with China.

*Yoshiko Sakurai is President, Japan Institute for National Fundamentals.*