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Uneasiness spreads through shortage of water as the temperature rises, a food shortage, and the disasters caused by the abnormal weather all over the world. The environmental accident is not only personnel affair by any means.

The speed of global warming is increasing at a faster rate than we've ever experienced. We often hear the news concerned about it all over the world. It is not rare that the rich green field changes deserts and heavy rains come to the dried place. If global warming continues on as it is, the sea level might raise up and some countries will be under water. Many countries are in danger of extinction due to the change in the environment, the lack of water, food crisis, the expansion of infection from the tropics, and the disaster of abnormal weather is expanding all over the world.

Japan is also affected. For example, our hometown, Hokkaido was known as the place rarely affected by typhoon but recently the forest around Lake Shikotsu in Chitose received a lot of damage from one. The change to unusual environment is no longer another person's affairs

2

We human beings polluted water and air for profit to ourselves and used limited resources with no plans.

The situation in the world has changed over the last few years. It is said that our life became more wealthy than before. Cars became popular so we can go on outing more easily. Many goods fill the town and we can get many foreign countries' foods as we live in Japan. We can live in comfort with both hot and cold weather thanks to air-conditioning and heating equipment.

However, because of this life style, water and air are polluted and we have used limited resources with no plans. We have cut trees, destroyed forests, and preceded developments for our profits.

If we use fuels such as coal and burn garbage, which keep increasing to get convenience and efficient life, much carbon dioxide is radiated. We have found recently that too much carbon dioxide makes the temperature of the earth high.

Now the greens which absorb carbon dioxide for us are decreasing. This unusual change might be the warning that the natural balance is gradually getting out of order.

3

Nature is a ring of connected parts. When even just a part is broken, there is a big influence which extends to the whole. I think that we have to realize it.

We breathe the oxygen which plants formed so we can live, and a plant breathes in the carbon dioxide which we spit out and changes it into oxygen. In addition, there is the following example, too. Salmons are born in a river, and before long, they grow and move toward the sea, while surviving on under waters insects. And again, they return to the river and produce new life.

The salmon, which finished laying eggs dies there, but it becomes the food of a creature living in the mountain, becomes the nourishment of the mountain rotating, and rotating. If a mountain becomes healthy, pure oxygen and water are made, and the water becomes the river again and makes progress with new life

A natural cycle does not have waste, and one life supports another life again. Nature is a ring of connected parts. When even just a part is broken, there is a big influence which extends to the whole. I think that we have to realize it.

4

We have to stop the environmental disruption right now and think that we must protect precious nature.

We get air, water, and food from nature. We cannot live for several minutes if oxygen disappears. The benefits which we receive from nature is so big as to be immeasurable. When nature becomes extinct, we human beings will fall equally. If that which is indispensable for living is not enough, even war may happen.

It is easy to break nature. However, it takes a long time to put it back. For example, it is very easy to cut down a tree by machine. However, it takes dozens of years for that tree to grow up into its original size. Therefore we have to stop the environmental disruption right now and think that we must protect precious nature.

Aborigine Ainu of Hokkaido thought that there was life in everything in the natural world and valued the ideas of living together with nature. Should we follow the thought now?

5

“I am proud of having such a beautiful hometown, and would want to keep it this way as long as possible”

There are oceans in Japan, and There are mountains too. In Japan the change of the seasons is quite noticeable.

Especially in Hokkaido it is said that there is a lot of nature still left. For proof, there are forests where squirrels, foxes and bears can live very close to where the people live.

In Chitose where we live there is Chitose river where the salmon come back, and Sikotsu lake where it is surrounded by beautiful nature.

The Aoba park where we talked with ニコルさん is surrounded by nature and it is a place where people love to gather. That day we spent with ニコルさん the trees were full of green leaves and the lovely breeze was very delightful.

I am proud of having such a wonderful hometown and I want to keep it like this for ever.

6

“Humans should be the doctor to heal the wounds of the earth, and all the countries should cooperate to protect the earth.”

We people are only a small part of the world, however we have changed a large part of it. We have the responsibility of making sure that the world's environment doesn't get worse. We people must be the doctor to heal the wounds of the earth.

Improving the environment is a lot of work. However, it is not impossible.

There are many countries in the world, and there are many people. All the countries and all the people in the world must have the heart to save the earth. You mustn't only think about yourself. Like the oceans and skies are all connected, all the countries in the world must cooperate to protect the earth.

7

“I think that only knowing about environment protection is not enough. It is important to act, and we must act every day.”

When we think about the environment, what can we do in our daily lives? In Chitose city many schools are involved in environment measures. For example as a volunteer work, we are trying to reduce the amount of trash, planting trees and getting involved in recycling.

We can also find something that we could do at home. For example, bringing your own shopping bag to the store, not wasting water or electricity and not using a car when going someplace near. This is all a very small thing to do, but if everyone does it, it could make a change.

The three “Rs” for reducing trash, reuse, reduce, recycle, are well known. However, knowing is not enough. It is important to take action, and we must take action every day.

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“Everyone in this whole wide world, let’s think about environment protection. Please help us with your wits and strengths. We hope from the bottom of our hearts that 50years from now, the earth will be a place where everyone can have a smile on their face.”

ニコルさん said “the next 50 years are your days” I think that this means that the earth’s environment is depending on us. To make the earth more healthy in 50 years, and to keep the earth beautiful over the next hundreds and thousands of years and passing it on to the next generation is up to us.

ニコルさん told us “you have the love and wisdom to save the earth. Don’t worry. Japan could be the most beautiful country.” I would like to engrave this message in my heart and move on step by step.

Everyone in this whole wide world, let’s think about environment protection. Please help us with your wits and strengths. We hope from the bottom of our hearts that 50years from now the earth will be a place where everyone can have a smile on their face.