

Earth Charter for Future Generations

Japanese Youth Contribution to a future Earth Charter

Kyoto Conference on Climate Change

December 1997

The youth, who will live in the twenty-first century, are becoming aware of the degradation of the Earth and the health of mankind. The youth are beginning to imagine a new lifestyle, a symbiotic life that will leave a plentiful earth for the future.

The Future Generations Earth Charter tells the messages of children and the youth in Japan, who have awareness of the environmental crisis of the Earth.

We were born in an abundant country, Japan, and we have never faced starvation. However, we see the process of environmental pollution around us. We are concerned about the destruction of the natural environment and many affected people around the world. Our concern is whether COP3 can make a decision that really prevents climate change and is not a political Power-game. Please hear our plea.

Do not turn the Earth into a big trash can

While we now enjoy a very convenient life, we are also producing various environmental problems at the same time. We believe that wealthy life in a true sense could be achieved through co-existence between the human life and the natural environment. In order to live harmoniously with nature, we will review the way we live now and do what we can do such as recycling and saving energy.

A convenient life will eventually shift the strain somewhere

We grow up in a materialistically-rich environment. Now we are starting to have doubts about such materialistic wealth. We believe that a truly rich life is not something that could be obtained in exchange with the environmental destruction. We will reform our way of life, which has become overly convenient by driving cars, massively consuming energy and so on.

The Earth is crying out

Global warming:

Since the fluorocarbon gas is something that we, the human beings created, it means that we are driving ourselves into death by own hands. We would like to reconsider our way of life to prevent the global warming.

Destruction of the ozone layer:

The ozone hole was discovered in 1982, the year I was born. The ozone hole must have grown up as much as I did.

Ecosystem:

We would like to become closer with nature and animals. Since we will be living longer years, we will have to try to live more closely with the earth.

I wish my school homework would be to protect the environment

We learn many things through picking up trash, recycling, playing with animals in the nature and going to the forest. If you have ever picked up trash, you will never ever throw away trash when you grow up.

It's always the future generation who can cure the Earth

Adults are making the present with the prejudice they hold from their past experiences. Future generations are trying to achieve a goal by sharing a common image for the future. Adults only blame the past for all the problems and never try to change within themselves. We, the future generations however, are trying to break such attitude and change within ourselves. Please do not leave any negative legacy to us. Do not put us in a situation where we would have no other choice but to make the future only in line with the present.

The Earth cannot eat plutonium

Some people say that nuclear power generation is indispensable in order to stop global warming. Since this has been decided only by adults, we cannot decide the favorable direction no matter how much effort we make to save energy. To accept nuclear energy now means that we would have to accept the responsibility tens of thousands of years from now. Please consider how much risk, both socially and environmentally, we would have to take almost permanently by choosing nuclear energy now. Should it be allowed for the adults? How can we permit that our parents' generation leave such a negative heritage to the future generations?

We count on the expansion of actions, that various people from different cultural backgrounds will bring, their opinions and action planning of their own. A meaningful Earth Charter will be produced with the contribution of an active future generations of the world.

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