

## Global Warming

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We have many problems in this world and some are too serious to solve and unfortunately they are left to the future. Among these problems our team focuses on global warming. One of the causes of global warming is CO<sub>2</sub> emitted by burning fossil fuel such as petroleum, coal and natural gas, when we use electricity in factories and in homes. Another is Freon gas which comes from air conditioners, refrigerators and other things to make our lives comfortable. And another is deforestation. As you know, forests absorb CO<sub>2</sub> but we human beings have destroyed lots of forests here and there on the earth. The more greenhouse gas emissions increase, the higher the average temperature on the earth goes up.

What kind of influences have global warming given to us?

Let me introduce some examples.

When the temperature rises by global warming, ice of glacier, Antarctic and other places melt and flow out into the sea. In addition, the sea water itself is warmed by high temperature and the sea level rises. It is said that the sea level of the whole world has risen by approximately 17 centimeters during the past 100 years. If the sea level will continue rising, then it is said that some places in Venice, Tuvalu, Maldives and Bangladesh will get under the water in the future. People living in these areas will suffer from serious damages. Already extinction of some kinds of animals and plants in these areas is going on. And a phenomenon that habitation areas of some animals and plants are moving to the northern parts. Do you know there is possibility that the Himalayan living in lower places might face shortage of water and their agriculture will have severe damage in the future?

Global warming causes abnormal weather, such as big typhoons or hurricanes, huge earthquakes, terrible floods, high temperature and so on. In Japan we have recently much more tornados than before. These changes of the weather make bad influence on our life and economy in the society. I am afraid that the changes might give some damage even to our bodies. However these abnormal phenomena in the nature might be screams from the earth. We have to keep it in mind that global warming is growing more and more serious even if we are aware of it or not.

Next, I want to talk about countermeasures which the governments do. In Japan, the government decided “Japanese General Policy for Promoting Measures against Global Warming” in 1998. Ministry of the Environment required that the policy should be solved by 2010 hurriedly. The government also established “Law Concerning the Promotion of the Measures to Cope with Global Warming”. And the basic rules of Japanese global warming countermeasures were decided. Now, I’m going to introduce the contents of the law. It says Japan government promote to ①Observe the changes of greenhouse effect gas, weather, ecology, and so on, ② Take global warming countermeasures and carrying them out. As a role of Japanese nation, we need to ①Try to reduce the emissions of greenhouse effect gas as soon as possible, ②Cooperate with them when the government, prefectures, cities, towns, and villages establish countermeasures. In my school, students have been taking eco actions against global warming countermeasures. For example, we grew plants and made green walls on the school building, participate in a fund-raising activity called “green feather”, and so on. We hope more and more schools will be interested in global warming and take actions like my school.

In the world, there are many countries which are carrying out various countermeasures to prevent global warming. Now, we’d like to introduce two countries of them which have worked for it especially eagerly. The first is Sweden. It is said that Sweden has the lowest Co2 emission in the world. When they commute to school or to work, most of them go on foot or by bicycle, take trains with wind turbine generator or public buses with biogas fuel. They have to pay Co2 tax when they buy gasoline, so most people don’t use their own cars using gasoline. They also work hard against garbage problem. The system of user fees for waste disposal started 50 years ago, and they separate garbage into 100 groups. We were very surprised to know that. Moreover, the recycle rate of house hold garbage is about 96%. You will understand from this rate how high the nation’s interest in environment is. Next place which we want to introduce is the largest city in the UK, London. London city came out with bold global warming countermeasures and attract big attention from many countries in the world. For example, ①Taxing 10 pound (about 16.25 dollars,15,700 rupiah) a day for people who drive cars into the city, which resulted into success in reducing cars, ②Implementing The Green Homes Concierge Service that London city send specialists to citizen’s homes and people learn how to save energy directly from them, ③Building biomass power stations which use sunlight and garbage as sources of energy, and so on. London is aiming at sustainable low-carbon society. The British government set the goal of cutting Co2 emissions by 50% by 2030, however, to our surprise, London city is trying to cut Co2

emissions by 60% by 2025. There are many other countries tackling global warming in the world. However we think London is outstanding in their bold countermeasures. Then, what countermeasures can we actually do?

We are taking Eco Action of Reduce, Reuse and Recycle, at home, at school and in the local area. In our city garbage is classified into nine groups to reduce and recycle as much as possible. At home we try to save electricity by turning off lights briskly and turning down the temperature of air-conditioner. In addition to saving, houses with solar panels on the roofs are increasing in my neighborhood. To save water, we do not let water running while brushing and taking shower. Some people do the laundry by used water in the bathtub. Some people do not use liquid soap in washing dishes but use a sponge made with wool yarn, which can remove dirt and oil easily without soap. In shopping we bring eco-bag and try to buy eco-friendly goods.

These are actions many people are doing. Today we want to introduce some other unique ideas of ours. The first is to use shopping bags we get from shops for free again and again, not throw them away as wastes. In Japan some original bags of shops are so fashionable and it is very popular for young people to carry them. When we go out, we put valuables into our bags and put other things into the shopping bags. It is very convenient especially when we have a lot of things with us. Some of them are made of cloth so they are much stronger than paper bags and you can use them many times. The second idea is to establish "Deforestation Tax System" to reduce deforestation. I heard deforestation is a big problem here in Indonesia too. So why don't you pay a small deforestation tax every time you cut down a tree? And the money collected from many people will be used for planting new trees. What do you think? The last idea is very unique. If we could invent machine which produces photosynthesis, how effective to stop global warming! We will put the machines in buildings in cities where there are lots of people but few plants. Then air will get cleaner and people will get more cheerful!

Global warming is an international problem. This time we looked up many things about global warming, and we were very shocked and sad to find that there was a system called Emissions Trading. Each country sets the emissions limit and a country that emits CO<sub>2</sub> over the limit can buy CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from a country below the limit. It seems a market-based approach to control CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. For developed countries, all they have to do is paying money. Can everything be solved by money? We think all countries in the world should solve this global problem in cooperation with other countries, not to solve it by paying money. In order to settle it, each country should have

a sense “impending”. People should share knowledge and technique and cooperate together for the same goal. Global warming is a problem that human beings produced. Each of us has to take responsibility for it, and try our best to solve it little by little for the future of a better earth. We young generations have to learn more about global warming through an environment educational at school and get more interested in the present critical situation and each of us take action in each life. Then this big problem will be solved in the future of our age! Let’s take eco action in each place!