

Building a society based on Respect for Life

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The word “globe”, which introduces the concept “global”, primarily means “the earth”. The earth is full of the various kinds of living creatures originated from a common ancestor that emerged some 3.8 billion years ago, most probably in the ancient sea. This 3.8 billion historical period gave rise to human beings. It means we are a part of nature.

In ancient times, people had “the sense of man in nature”. Modern civilization, however, separates nature and man in order to make it possible for us to live conveniently, utilizing science and technology. Science and technology aim to make progress based on rationality and create the society with the consumption of large amounts of materials and energy.

Eventually, the strains such as global environmental issues and the wilderness in human mind have occurred in the quest for economic efficiency. Environment is the outer nature and human mind is the inner nature.

In the latter half of the 20th century, life science enriched our view of living things by examining mainly the genome (DNA in its entirety, present in the nucleus of the cell and contains all the genetic information needed to form an individual). The genome has the face of universality and at the same time, it has the face of diversity. By comparing the genome of various kinds of living creatures, we are able to reveal the history of life and the relationship of all living creatures on the earth. It shows that the essence of the nature is the ecosystem composed of the symbiosis.

Now, the time has come to try to invent a new kind of science and technology based on the great deal of knowledge of the living things and to create a novel value of “the sense of man in nature” with reason that pursues the revival of humans as living creatures. By utilizing such novel science and technology, we can develop new industrial activities for foods (agriculture and food industry), health (medicine and pharmaceutical industry), residence (forestry and construction), mind and knowledge (education), environment (especially water) and create a novel society based on respect for life, I believe.

Japan is the country with four seasons and our ancestors have constructed wonderful culture and civilization with the love for nature. Now we Japanese should propose a novel society based on respect for life to the people all over the world.