

G8 MINISTERS OF ENVIRONMENT MEETING

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PLANET IN PERIL AND GLOBAL WORLD:

Emergence of new movements

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About 2,700 words

Minister Kamoshita, Honorable Ministers, distinguished guests, and ladies and gentlemen:

I am honored to be here with you to the meeting of Ministers of Environments of G8 and other leader nations of the world. This is of course the first time I am invited to deliver a speech at such a high level meeting on climate crisis, deteriorating environs, loss of biodiversity and many other issues we all face today. These are the very issues that all of you are leaders and experts who are responsible to our global society, thus I will not discuss how important and pressing the environmental issues and policies are. Rather, I wish that you will discuss openly and objectively these difficult issues and reach, collectively, forward looking political decisions toward our global common good or sustainability of human society.

Incunabula. This Latin word means PRINTED BOOKS between Gutenberg of mid-15th century and year 1501, a span of about 50 years. There are about 40,000 of them, but they changed the way of life and social hierarchy built before.

Implication is that dissemination of information to a larger public sphere, challenged the authority, and this was the foundation of religious revolution, challenging the authority of the Church which governed Europe for many centuries, and led to renaissance and modern science.

These later consequences were not expected at all by Gutenberg himself who printed Bibles so that many could read the teaching of the Bible,

This shows how great the impact of dissemination of information, enabling great number of people of the society to seek facts and truth, to question and challenge the establishments and the authority based on previous paradigm, and eventually leading to social change, which we call progress.

Science, technology and engineering played a major role in our progress in shaping our daily life as it is today in many affluent society. The pace of our progress accelerated dramatically since Industrial revolution of late 18th century. Here, energy has been converted to power, replacing man-power, horse power and other low-cost labor force.

Most dramatic and remarkable progress has occurred in 20th century; which may be characterized by global wars, science and technology, medical science and practice, and means of transportation and communication

Just think. In 1903, the Wright brothers made first successful man-made flight over 10 seconds for 40 meters, but the rest is a history; men travelled even to the Moon; all of us flew-in here in Kobe just over hours, not days.

In 1905, Einstein proposed a concept of $E=MC^2$, but now we are talking about more and more nuclear energy plants for low carbon emitting energy source. Is this truly a correct answer? Where to store nuclear waste? Non-nuclear proliferation or NPT? Risks of accidents? How about terrorists attack? Technological safety is only one thing, but there are many other important issues.

After many millennia, human population grew to 500 million around year 1,500, and to 1.6 billion 100 years ago. But, it is now over 6 billion and is expected to grow further to 9 billion in 2050.

Average life expectancy at birth of was only 25 years 2,000 years ago, in the most civilized place, Rome. Many children would not survive beyond the age of 5. Nutrition and many infectious diseases were major threats.

It took almost 2000 years to gain additional 15 years of life expectancy, thus it has become 40-45 years 100 years ago in UK, US and several developed countries, But now 100 years later we are talking about life expectancy of 80 years. A great achievement.

According to Christopher Freeman of Sussex University of UK, this technological paradigm change with economic growth pattern of the 20th century could be traced back in T-Ford automobile of 1908, then began the age of automation, mass production, standardization of products, and consumerism, supported by cheap oil, a new source of energy. Followed was the changes in societal structure and our way of daily life, we all are very much used to think and feel comfortable as norm, today.

Economic growth with expansion of energy-intense industrialization with increasing energy needs, mostly fossil fuels, led to pollution, acid-rain, deforestation, climate change, shortage of other natural resources, loss of biodiversity.

Remember, Silent Spring by Rachael Carson in 1962? a clear warning of deteriorating environs and pollution by the industrialized world.

Remember Limit to Growth, by the Club of Rome in 1972?

How about United Nations' Brundtland Report in 1987, Sustainable Development; Our Common Future ?

Despite these warnings, only limited actions could be taken, but only locally and nationally. Japan experienced major incidences, Minamata and Itai-Itai diseases, and we must learn the lessons.

We had to wait until 1991 when the Cold War ended. Indeed, very next year, the Earth Summit was held in Rio de Janeiro that delivered Agenda 21 or Declaration of Environment and Development.

With the end of Cold War, the world got into global market economy. Financial crisis in many parts of the world ensued and the rich became richer, new rich appeared.

But almost at the same time the MAJOR REVOLUTION came to our world, that is Internet.

Table top, then laptop computers appeared from late 1970 through 80s, but not widely connected until mid 1990s. Bill Gates of MicroSoft and others were new leaders of the new world.

We became connect thru Internet in Mid-90s: world wide web or www in 1992, followed by many absolutely new businesses and services emerged, like Yahoo, Amazon all in 1994, Windows95, and gradually, but rather MORE dramatically, the world has become connected or the World became FLAT as pointed out by Thomas Friedman of New York Times.

When did you start using mobile phone? Internet? Emails? For most people, it is in the past 10 years.

Apple was the first to deliver table-top computer, but almost bankrupt with only 5 weeks of money to go in 1997. But now with its iPod and iPhone, it is again a top brand company of the world. Steven Jobs was the man.

Google was founded in 1998 by two young graduate students, Larry Page and Sergei Brin, and after just 10 years, it is worth 200 billion dollars and you see and use Google almost everyday.

These extraordinary examples show that an individual can have a major impact in this connected new world with such a SHORT PERIOD of time in such a GLOBAL SCALE, which underlie the emergence of word 'Human

Capital' rather than 'Human resource', A major paradigm change.

Nonetheless, in this new global and open market economy and connected world, with emergence of new economies, and further growing human population, this is a BIG challenge.

Many issues became apparent to the wider public, eg, rapidly rising energy use and worsening global warming and climate crisis, shortage of water, food, and natural resources, loss of biodiversity, and many others and they are induced by human activities.

I tell here that the Internet is 'Incunabula', which ENABLEs and EMPOWERs ever greater, now world public ignoring physical boundaries including national borders, thus threatens establishments of old paradigm. This modern incunabula has become wireless, mobile, modular. Moreover, Internet allows bilateral, written and even visual message delivery anytime from anywhere of the world, great impacts upon conventional media and press, and question and challenge the authorities, be it business, academia, politics. An example include Wikipedia and various new businesses arisen based on Internet most recently FaceBook.

Extreme poverty and wider North-South disparity or huge gaps between those who have and have-not in a nation or in the world; crisis of human identity in connected world, and inequity is everywhere. These facts underlie in various conflicts, frustration and often violence. Human fighting continues.

The wide public in the connected world has become keenly aware of human misery and suffering of the extreme poverty and inequity within and among the nations and the regions of the connected world, visually and even live.

Nobel Peace Prizes of the last two years illustrate the processes and possible solutions for steps forward of the major issues of the globalization.

Nobel Peace Prize of 2007 went to IPCC and Mr Albert Gore. The IPCC,

chaired by Professor Pachauri, has been working hard, and produced and provided, for some time, science-based policy recommendations on global warming and climate change, but such efforts have been not widely recognized. The effort by Al Gore utilizing effective visual images has made the climate crisis issues widely recognizable, thus, to a politically viable agenda.

Nobel Peace Prize of 2006 went to Grameen Bank and Mr Yunus who provided microfinance to impoverished women in a very poor country, Bangladesh, to enable them to become independent, a hallmark of social enterprise or social entrepreneurship. The microfinance is now operational in more than 60 countries.

Climate change and global warming impact more severely on poor people, and reduced crop production, water shortage, melting glaciers and ices in polar areas and high mountains. Malaria may spread to currently mild climate zones.

In response to rising awareness of climate crisis together with rising crude oil price, conversion to clean and renewable energy of non-fossil fuels has been advancing though still sluggish. The current global matters could be stated as '2Cs and 3Fs'; Climate Change and Fuel, Food and Feed. And of course, another critical survival matter is water.

This Food and Feed, or how to supply foods to feed is the core of the often forgotten theme of Millennium Development Goals MDG-1, under-nutrition, often associated with poverty and diseases. Recent sudden rise in crop prices further threatens these people and the stability and security of human society.

NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL

Many countries provide aids to poor and developing countries, or ODA, through own national programs and projects and also through various international organizations. Typical examples of the latter are UN and its agencies. This year is the mid-term of MDGs toward 2015, and G8 and other leader nations carry significant responsibilities toward MDGs.

Similarly, International Monetary Funds, World Bank, Regional Development Banks and others play important roles.

These national and international conventional activities are, by its very nature, typically 'TOP-DOWN' and it is often known for their bureaucracy and inefficiency

Next week, Japan will host in Yokohama, the 4th Tokyo International Conference of African Development or TICAD. The Conference began in 1993 and held every 5 years by Japan, with World Bank and UNDP, and this year, the heads of the nations of more than 40 countries of Africa will join with us, the region which suffers most in this global world.

G8 Summit represents a major international political forum which addresses global issues and Japan will host the Summit 6 weeks from now in Toyako, Hokkaido, and your meeting here is one of the key meetings of this process.

The major issues dealt in last few G8 Summits were Climate Change and Africa among other issues. How to engage in the transition to low carbon society, consistent with economy with rapidly growing economies in various parts of the global world? This is the major issues because we may not have time left to leave the planet to our future generations.

This year, additional issues may include global capital market crisis, rising food price, major risks and potential risks such as avian flu, relief plans for major natural disasters as recent ones in Myanmar and China.

Japan hosted last G8 Summit in year 2000 with its remarkable leadership inviting for the first time, heads of African States, and created Global Fund to combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria and Tuberculosis.

Can Japan demonstrate a leadership again as the second largest economy of the world? Can G8 leadership deliver what they promised, re-promised? I sincerely hope so despite various national and domestic

political issues.

CIVIL SOCIETY MOVEMENTS

In the connected world, new and distinct activity has arisen in most remarkably in the last decade. It is the civil society movements with numerous NGOs and, more recently, social entrepreneurship. I will call this movement 'Globalization 1.0', and they are bottom-up engagements. More than half of NGOs of the world are led by women. One interpretation is that women may have more than men, empathy on human sufferings, thus engage.

PHILANTHROPY

Another emerging movement, which I may call 'Globalization 2.0', is typically represented by the Gates Foundation. More philanthropies and foundations are addressing their focuses on poverty, global health, clean energy and green technology, nature conservation, biodiversity, and other global issues.

Often being more effective often because of their business background and their own funds, their engagements catalyze the top-down national and international aids and bottom-up NGO movements, more effectively toward common and shared objectives.

Mr Bill Gates in his recent speech at World Economic Forum in Davos, proposed 'creative capitalism', raising a possibility of social commitment as a new mission of business in global and open market economy.

Many and new billionaires have emerged in global market economy and many of them hopefully address their interests to those poorest billion of the world.

PRIVATE SECTOR

Another movements which I may call 'Globalization 3.0', underlies the fact that intangible assets becoming the major portion of corporate values, thus pressing corporate social responsibility to a new dimension. Stated in another way, corporate is valued not only by its shareholders,

but by the stakeholders in the global community, in this connected and flattening world. Thus, corporate social responsibility or CSR could be now called Corporate global responsibility or CGR

One of the best examples of Japanese private, well known to the world, is Sumitomo Chemical Company, which invented a highly innovative Mosquito Net, the most effective net woven by threads impregnated with pesticide, thus lasts for 5 years. Wide distribution of the net to malaria infected area, mostly Africa, leads to a rapid decline in malaria infection. The BedNet is licensed to a Tanzanian company, and they produce over 30 million a year and created many thousands of jobs in Tanzania and elsewhere.

UNIVERSITIES

Human development is the key to the future. In this regards, university plays a critical role to nurture future leaders. Many leading universities of the world have become more and more open to the world and became cores of global community, and I call it 'Globalization 4.0'. Many leading universities are developing various programs and curricula attracting faculty and students of the world, to study and work on global health, poverty, development. Many future leaders will study and work in poor nations and become more engaged in global challenges as future leaders in every sector of the global community.

Various plans are in progress to build networks of universities and research institutions of the world utilizing connectivity as a powerful tool, but exchange and flow of human capital and resources are vital component of the program.

In this speech, I hoped to share with you, honorable guests and leaders of the world order, the pressing global issues and the major responsibilities each and all of you carry and share in common, that is to make the world a better place for all.

Various activities from national and international to recent emergence of civil society movements, and involvements of private sector, then to

reform in university and educational program, represent transition to global civil society of the more and more inclusive global society. The process of policy-making and decision makings and policy-execution demand more transparent democratic process, even beyond national boundaries in the global world.

The key world has become INCLUSIVE ONE SOCIETY. Attempts to resist such movements will certainly fail, over time, as our history teaches us repeatedly. But the transition to a new paradigm of INCLUSIVE ONE SOCIETY will be much faster than one may imagine in the connected world. Civil society and private sectors have to become our important partners.

The world watches G8 Process and what it delivers. The entire world is all hoping to see your collective leadership toward the global common good to make the world a better place to live for all.

I would like to end my speech by two quotes, one from Lester Brown in his book, 'Plan B, version 2.0'

Communism has failed because it did not tell the truth on economy
Capitalism may fail because it does not tell the truth on ecology

Another is well known Mahatma Gandhi's:
Earth can meet our need, but not our greed

I am grateful to Minister Kamoshita for giving this honor and privilege to talk to you all.

Thank you.

END OF THE SPEECH