

エコシステム

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世界との約束

環境諮問会議の創設を

- | 内閣府に環境諮問会議をつくる
- | 日本の現状と展望
- | 国土全体で自然環境の保護・再生を
- | 環境会議、世界では
- | 持続可能な日本の実現に向けて

持続可能な国をつくることは世界との約束。環境と経済の両立こそが健全な日本へのただ一つの道です。

To build a sustainable country is our promise to the world. Harmonizing environment and economy is the only way to a healthy Japan.

Japan Should Establish an Environmental Advisory Board-It Could Fulfill Our Promise to the World

This year marked the 25th anniversary of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (the Earth Summit) in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Many countries of the world have been steadily promoting sustainable community building projects. They have done this by protecting and restoring natural ecosystems that are foundation for their survival. However, Japan still maintains its policy of prioritizing economic development above all else. Japan needs to start promoting sustainable communities that can coexist with nature.

In Japan policies that protect nature and environment are mainly under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of the Environment. But if a policy affects rivers or agricultural lands, the Ministry of the Environment must negotiate with the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism or the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries. To implement any policy to protect nature and environments, several ministries and agencies will be involved. Ministries and agencies may have started paying attention to environmental concerns under their jurisdictions, but each has its own objectives that may not be compatible with protection of nature and the environment. Under these circumstances, because the Ministry of the Environment must negotiate with other ministries and agencies as equals, there are limits to its ability to promote sustainable community development. This is why it is necessary to establish an Environmental Advisory Board within the Cabinet Office which can have higher decision making powers and can provide strong leadership.

It has been said that Japan is full of 'green'; however, that 'green' is full of lawn grass, tree plantation of cedar and cypress, as well as invasive plants that have spread all over the country. In reality there are few pristine natural areas

left in Japan. Japanese people should realize that protection, restoration, and sustainable use of high quality nature can have positive effects on industries and businesses and can lead to revitalization of Japanese society and economy. It is important that leaders of Japan first recognize this reality and prospects of Japan's natural situation in order to establish new policies to protect nature and the environment and second seriously implement them.

In the United States, the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) was established within the Executive Office of the President in 1969, 'to create and maintain conditions under which man and nature can exist in productive harmony, and fulfill the social, economic, and other requirements of present and future generations of Americans.'. 'The CEQ produces an annual report for the President on the state of the environment, oversees federal agency implementation of environmental impact assessments, and acts as a referee when agencies disagree over the adequacy of such assessments. Germany has created the German Advisory Council on Environment and the Britain has established the Natural Capital Committee. Both of them are independent from ministry administration and give advice on the environmental issues to protect nature and environment.

These examples show that other countries have already established special organizations that lead, coordinate, advise, and support other ministries and agencies to promote sustainable nation building. Japan also should establish an Advisory Council on Environment within the Cabinet Office that includes experts and representatives from NGOs and arrange a new system that can strongly promote protection and restoration of nature throughout the country.



A mud-slide occurred at a tree plantation. Just being 'green' does not mean it can fully function as nature does



In Japan, many different ministries and agencies manage and control separate parts of national lands. Therefore, no nationally-coordinated, effective policy regarding natural and environmental protection is possible beyond their boundaries



The United States, Germany and Britain have established offices specializing in environmental policy coordination and oversight and have been promoting sustainable national development



Japan should create an Advisory Council on Environment and promote sustainable national development

禁無断転載 海外との情報交流促進のため、要約を英文で掲載しています