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The Cry of Mother Nature

Wakayama`s Role

The world is changing and it is changing very fast. Before, we were fascinated by the grandeur of the lush green forests, the thick -white icebergs and ice caps, and the blue rivers and seas that can be seen vividly from a distance. The noise of the birds and animals could likewise be heard anywhere as they uttered uniquely to the tune of merry – making for the wonderful and splendid nature. People then were benefited much because of the rich Mother Nature.

Now, the scenario has turned the other way around. The splendid nature has been devastated by selfish and unkind humans. As a result, the world suffers climatic changes that no one could ever imagine. The great earthquakes that struck New Zealand, Japan and the rest of the world that claimed thousands of lives. The horrific mega - tsunamis that hit Indonesia, India, Thailand, and Japan that wiped out the places in minutes, damaged properties and killed thousands of lives. Another dreadful effect of destroying Mother Nature is Global Warming. Wikipedia defines Global Warming as the continuing rise in the average temperature of the Earth's atmosphere and oceans caused by increased concentrations of greenhouse gases, like carbon dioxide, in the atmosphere resulting from human activities such as deforestation and burning fossil fuels. The persistent warming of our only one planet could cause sea levels to rise and more precipitation or more rains could occur. The worst-scenario of global warming would be flooding, heat waves, droughts and even extinction of endangered species. Its effects are now being experienced by everyone anywhere in the globe.

Are we blind, or deaf? Do we still have to wait for another devastated incident to occur? What then shall we do?

Wakayama`s Role

Wakayama is blessed with benevolent people, rich culture and splendid nature. Today, Wakayama is not only a home for local people but also for foreigners as well. I considered Wakayama as my second home. Here, I experience the hospitality and generosity of people. I also see lots of active organizations both for locals and foreigners. One of which is the

WINCONCORD, under the leadership of Nakatani Sensei. This organization has been supporting international students living in Wakayama international house.

However, in order for this wonderful place to be maintained for the future generations, preserving, conserving and nurturing Mother Nature is needed which is as important as caring for oneself. The place must find simple yet effective ways in order to help fight climate change.

As a chemistry teacher and a foreign resident of Wakayama, my role is to inform people about the ways on how to combat climate change. I have two ways to be proposed for this: First, the “Go Green Wakayama”, where local people and foreigners in Wakayama will be invited to join a tree planting activity for a day with the supervision and support of the different governmental and non – governmental organizations; Second, the conduct of “Bicycle for a Cause”. Generally, in Japan particularly in Wakayama, bicycle is one of the most popular transportation for common people. In “Bicycle for a Cause”, local residents will be invited to join the bicycle parade around the city to promote bicycling which is a good form of exercise and one of the means to fight climate change by minimizing air pollutants like carbon dioxide which contributes to global warming.

These ways are just easy yet effective I believe, to restore the beauty that Mother Nature had before. The unity, cooperation and the heart to care for Mother Nature is a big tool to minimize global warming, and the people in Wakayama have all these values. These are also the things that Wakayama should truly be proud of and which this city rightfully accords as its legacy and heritage to the world.