



THE 2016 SPEECH & RECITATION CONTEST THE DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH



Date: November 16, 2016

Time: 16:30 ~ 18:30

Room: 1152

Welcome & Instructions

Ayaka Honda

Judges

Professor Yuji Sato

Professor Christie Provenzano

Recitation Contestants (script on the other side)

1. Kana Ito
2. Ayumi Matsushita
3. Rikarudo Watanabe
4. Mako Yamamoto

Speech Contestants

1. Shun'nosuke Otsuzuki "We Have a Choice to Live or to Exist"

~ 15-minute Break ~

Announcement of Winners !

Best Recitation

Best Speech

The Judges' Special Award



2016 Recitation Theme

▀ *Jose Mujica “Human Happiness and the Environment” (modified)*

To all of the authorities present here, from every latitude and organization, thank you very much. I want to thank the people of Brazil and Mrs. President, Dilma Rousseff. Thank you all for the good faith expressed by all of the speakers that preceded me.

All afternoon we've been talking about sustainable development. And we've been talking about bringing huge numbers of people out of poverty. But, the patterns of production and consumption that we have at the moment are those of rich societies. Now, what would happen to this planet if the people of India had the same number of cars per family as the Germans do? How much oxygen would be left to breathe? More clearly: Does the world today have the resources to enable 7 or 8 billion people to enjoy the same level of consumption and squandering as the most affluent Western societies?

Our civilization has to do with competition and the market. The market economy has created market societies, and it has given us this globalization, which now gives us a planet-wide view of events. But are we governing globalization or is it governing us? Is it possible to speak of solidarity and of “being all together” in an economy based on ruthless competition?

Today, man does not govern the forces he has unleashed, but rather, it is these forces that govern man and life. We do not come into this planet simply to develop indiscriminately. We come into this planet to be happy, and no material belonging is worth as much as life. But if consumption is paralyzed, the economy slows down, and if the economy slows down, then there's stagnation. Although consumption is the very thing that is consuming the planet, people want to sell more and more. That is why a light bulb cannot last longer than 1000 hours. But there are light bulbs that last 100,000 hours! But these cannot be manufactured, because we have to sustain a civilization of “use and discard.” We are trapped in a vicious cycle.

I'm not talking about returning to the days of the caveman, or erecting a “monument to backwardness.” But we cannot continue like this, being ruled by the market. On the contrary, we have to rule over the market. The old thinkers put it this way, a poor person is not someone who has little but one who needs infinitely more, and more and more.”

So I salute the efforts and agreements being made. And I will adhere to them, as a ruler. I know some things I'm saying are not easy to digest. But we must realize that the water crisis and the aggression to the environment is not the cause. The cause is the model of civilization that we have created. So we have to re-examine our way of life.

My fellow workers used to work an 8-hour workday. And now they work for 6 hours instead. But the person who works 6 hours gets two jobs; therefore, he works longer than before. But why? Because he needs to make monthly payments for the motorcycle, the car, and all the things he bought. And when he's done with that, he realizes he is an old man, and his life is already over.

Is this the fate of human life? These things I say are very basic: Development cannot go against happiness. It has to work in favor of human happiness, love, human relationships, caring for children, having friends, having our basic needs covered. The most precious treasure we have is happiness. When we fight for the environment, we must remember that the essential element of the environment is called human happiness.

Thank you.