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Toward a global Green Center

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The “world’s factory” as the source of world-wide adverse affects

Japan, the Republic of Korea, China, and other East Asian countries have, for some time, been “the world’s factory,” a base that exports goods to Western countries. Since the countries of East Asia share a common environmental destiny, Japan, Korea and China must cooperate to preserve that environment from further contamination.

World CO2 waste biggest area

Since air pollution or coastal marine pollution caused by industrial activity in Japan and Korea are further impacted by pollution originating in mainland China, joint activities by all three countries are urgently required to reduce air pollution, CO2 emissions, water contamination, and ocean pollution. This means that cyclical economies, eco town planning, and pollution prevention have become obligatory.

Strategies for a low-carbon and cyclical society

The task of halving CO₂ emissions by 2050, especially, in advanced countries, even up to an 80 percent reduction, is acknowledged as a long-term policy goal by President Obama in the U.S.

Since the concept of creating a low-carbon society is based on an international consensus, we must therefore acknowledge that the concept of creating a cyclical society is situated in the framework of the issues raised by climate change. If we reorganize the concepts from a social viewpoint, we shall need to rank them in an order of descending priority as a sustainable society first, a low-carbon society next, and a cyclical society third.

Better human well-being

We also need to remember that while the benefits achieved through the exploitation of human labor are presented as economic growth, the issue of the death of the laborers as a result of such exploitation has not, in some cases, been faced, or resolved. We therefore see that the industrial activities in these 3 countries have adverse effects not only on the global environment but also on individual human lives.

Building a Green Center with low carbon output to improve the quality of life

These problems can be largely solved and the quality of human life improved if we develop a Green Center that supports a recycling-oriented production system with low carbon output. Such a production system will ensure that the products representing the production output contribute to environmental conservation, while renewable energy used for the energy input for the production and the production process should aim for zero emission and an adequate working environment. Consequently, the cooperative adoption by the 3 countries of a comprehensive environmental policy capable of improving the quality of life as a part of their production activities and economic policy, can convert East Asia into “the green center of the world.”

Cyclical economy in cooperation

Concretely speaking, cyclical economies, eco town planning, and pollution prevention have become obligatory. For example, Kitakyushu-city and several cities in northeastern China are planning to collaborate in such activities. Furthermore, it is necessary to take collaborative action for the reform of export-oriented economies and demand expansion.

Japan can offer a Green Center Model

Throughout its recent history, Japan has experienced such negative aspects of economic growth as the destruction of the environment and the death through overwork of personnel. Although South Korea and China have been following a similar path of economic growth, they have not always considered Japan's negative experiences. Japan therefore needs to adopt a more active leadership role and should promote cooperation with China and South Korea so that East Asia may be converted into a Green Center, a low-carbon-output, recycling- oriented society that can be a role model for the rest of the world. Efforts to this end must begin with a clear vision of how Japan and its neighbors intend to set about improving the quality of civic life.

New Democratic Party Policy

New Prime Minister, Yukio Hatoyama, has just proposed the idea of an “East Asian Community”, and we should further like to propose an “East Asian Economy and Environment Community” that will contribute both sustainability and worldwide human well-being, a community that we have called a Green Center. We have to learn from the EU’s experience of the advantages of cooperation in the field of economy and environment if we ourselves hope to create a global standard.

The risk is an opportunity

- RISK 危機 = 危險 Hazard + 機會 Opportunity
- Economy 經濟 = 經国 濟民
經国 Govern Country
濟民 Relief People

Conclusion

So, keeping in mind this original Chinese meaning of ‘Economy’, we should like, as responsible members of the world community, to become a ‘respect-worthy Asia’ in both Economic and Environmental terms.