

Entire declaration of the “Tokai Global Summit”

The Tokai Global Summit was held on Saturday May 21 with the initiative of students.

Four sectional meetings were organized under the theme of environment, refugees, education, and health and sanitation, so that participants could discuss about their future in 2050.

Today, we would like to make a report of the event.

Let us start by sharing the findings from each sectional meeting.

Environment

Our society is surrounded by the natural environment, and therefore exists by receiving various ecosystem services. For this reason, we are responsible for making a payment for the ecosystem services.

We, the youth who will assume the future, must be aware that we benefit from the ecosystem services in creating a relationship between the environment and society, and thus are committed to communicate this fact to others toward 2050. In addition, we commit ourselves to take actions for implementing an environment tax system.

As for the tax system, we recommend two types of tax; tax to be imposed on the private sector for giving burden to the environment, and the “*Furusato* hometown environment tax”. This hometown environment tax is a type of tax which the citizens pay for environmental preservation of a certain region. In return, citizens will be entitled to receive environmentally sound products or an opportunity for green tourism.

As part of the activities to promote the tax system suggested earlier, we will carry out a campaign for collecting signatures of individuals and private companies, organize marches and events to raise awareness, and use media and SNS to further disseminate the information.

Refugees

With regard to refugee issues in 2050, we hereby declare to realize the principle of “creating a society in which refugees can be self-sustaining and sustainably co-live with others.”

One-way aid, which is the standard way of assistance in modern society, has limitations in various fields as well as in financial aspects. When thinking of the future, support that we provide must be sustainable. In other words, we believe

that it is important to acknowledge refugees' rights, enable them to be self-sustaining, and build a society in which people with diverse background can co-exist equally.

Especially in Japan where low birth rate and rapid aging is observed, when we look upon the future in 2050, it is essential to make use of the third country resettlement system and willingly accept refugees as an important labor force. It is also significant to provide education on cultural competence both to refugees and long term residents in Japan to promote understanding and acceptance of different cultures. By doing so, we will be able to pursue a society that acknowledges the potential skills of each refugee.

It is also crucial to establish a new local society which benefits from knowledge to support refugees and to live together.

Education

The “power to live” which is a requisite for the future generation in 2050 is to “be able to question oneself and derive an answer on one’s own”. In response to this, the present generation is being taught of things without an answer. To provide education that helps people create values, and enable them to make judgements based on their own experience rather than being affected by information are the type of human-like skills which is called for today.

In order to develop such skills, we would like the education provided in 2050 to be like the following. First, “learning through actual experience”. An education that allows people to actually experience it and learn through thinking. This is a type of education which is being practiced today. There is no need to change something. We must keep on providing this type of education. During the sectional meeting, we agreed that the future generation will have an opportunity to be exposed to even more information from childhood, therefore we will be one of the last generations who know about the importance of experience. That is why we must convey this message. Second, “education to foster motivation”. Children must be motivated to accumulate experience. And this must be examined as an educational curriculum as a whole. This means that “education to foster imaginative skills” will be required. Children themselves must think and imagine their future. Otherwise an attitude to learn from experience will not be created.

This is what we would like to propose as our final recommendation from this sectional meeting.

Health and sanitation

Through discussions in this sectional meeting, we agreed on the necessity to fear infectious diseases with proper knowledge.

Thinking of 2050, no change is required in what we should do today and in the future in a place like Japan where we have a developed public health.

However, if we look at overseas, aid must be provided to countries which need infrastructure development so that infectious disease will be prevented in advance.

Further, even in a social environment like in Japan, cities and rural area are bipolarizing. There might be places out of the national government's reach. Because of globalization, our country will not be a place just for Japanese citizens.

Infectious disease which did not exist in Japan in the past, or disease that was once eradicated in the country may come into the country.

There are three levels to tackle this risk. First is the citizen level. It is important that, rather than the state, each person has awareness on epidemic prevention. This is because awareness will be raised by citizens.

Second is the national level. The national government will secure budget for prevention, and the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology will take initiative in increasing physical education classes for the nation to enhance physical strength. Meanwhile, more people will die from bacteria attributable to drug resistance. The government will have to take measures to prevent this.

Third is the international level. The international society will take aggressive measures in developing the health and sanitation infrastructure including water and sewage systems and healthcare education in developing countries.

These three levels will be the main axis to prevent the tragedy of pandemic.

We understand that, for participants who have gathered, life in 2050 is something hard to imagine. Yet, we believe that discussions in the sectional meeting have enabled people to think of what awaits us in the future and how that will relate to ourselves.

Participants' age ranged from 16 to 24. We are confident that the talks we carried out to think about the future from the "youth" perspective and sharing it to the world has turned into a big step ahead.

We anticipate that the world in 2050 faces drastic change in its social situation

and would be completely different from now. The GDP forecast of each country, climate change, terrorism, ideal education, new virus, resources, refugees, and more. In each issue, things that exceed our expectation might be happening. We will be questioned what kind of actions to take if something unexpected happens.

What do we desire in the future, and what kind of future do we want to hand over to the younger generation? We will have to think of that and keep on progressing.

To make sure that the world in 2050 will be an ideal society when we, the youth, will be the generation to take initiatives, we must continue to work on activities that lead to our target, and keep on learning. We hereby commit ourselves to take action from today in relation to what we have decided to do in the sectional meetings.

■ respectfully

- Tokai Global Summit
- Sento-Tarui
- Yosinori Usami
- Jinin Oroka