



世界の論点 2019-2020

EE9月号の特集「英語で伝える ヒロシマ・ナガサキ」では、広島と長崎を訪れていた外国人のインタビューを収録しました。これを聴けば、どの方も異国である日本の歴史について自分の言葉で語っていることがわかります。もし、自分が外国へ行き、同様に意見を求められたとしたら、彼らのように自分の考えを伝えることができるでしょうか。今回の特集では、国際社会を舞台に活躍しようとしている方に必読の重要トピックを取り上げ、それらの問題の構造とそれに対する外国人の生の声を紹介します。この特集でインプットした内容をそしゃくし、自分の言葉でアウトプットできる「意見の言える国際人」を目指しましょう。

執筆 (pp.40-41、pp.44-45、pp.48-49、pp.52-53) :

Vital Japan 代表・創設者 小田康之 + Vital Japan 講師 King Chu

●Vital Japanは日本最大級の英語コミュニティ。毎回200人ほどが参加するVital English (英語勉強会)も東京にて開催している。

<http://vitaljapan.com>



Plastic Waste and Climate Change

24

Environmental issues have perhaps never held the world's interest as much as they have this year, and plastic waste has been high on the list. Around 8 to 9 million tons of plastic waste makes its way into the ocean every year, where instead of decomposing, it is broken down into tiny particles by wave action and the sun's ultraviolet radiation. Because marine creatures swallow these microplastics, concern is rising over the human health risks they pose through the seafood we in turn consume.

As part of the movement to reduce plastic waste, efforts are under way around the globe to replace plastic straws, cups and other utensils with ones made of paper or other biodegradable material. Starbucks is aiming to completely abolish the use of plastic disposable straws at all its stores by 2020. And from April the same year, it will be mandatory for all stores in Japan to charge for plastic shopping bags.

Another focus of attention this year has been climate change, a problem of increasing gravity as more and more research points to global warming's link to higher frequency of extreme-weather events. Central to this issue is the Paris Agreement, a landmark international accord reached in 2015 to combat climate change and work toward achieving a sustainable, low-carbon future. Set forth in the agreement is an international framework of action for 2020 and beyond, with the goal of reducing greenhouse-gas emissions to virtually zero by the latter half of the 21st century. Japan's part includes the interim goal of effecting a 26 percent reduction from 2013 levels by 2030.

Despite President Donald Trump's 2017 announcement that the US would withdraw from the Paris Agreement, a recent poll indicates some 70 percent of Americans are unhappy with the president's climate-change policy. Meanwhile, to better convey the severity of the situation, some media outlets have switched to using the term *climate crisis* instead of *climate change*.

hold the world's interest:
世界中の興味を引き続ける

plastic waste:
プラスチックごみ

be high on the list:
リストの上位にある、優先事項である

make one's way into:
徐々に進んで〜の中に至る、流出する

decompose:
自然分解する、腐敗する

tiny particle:
微粒子

wave action:
波動活動、波の作用

ultraviolet radiation:
紫外線放射

marine creature:
海洋生物

swallow:
〜を飲み込む

pose a risk:
危険をもたらす

in turn:
今度は、次には

utensil:
(主に食品関係の)用具

biodegradable:
生分解できる

charge for:
〜の料金を取る

accord:
協定、協約

combat:
〜と闘う、食い止める

set forth:
〜を表明する、明記する

international framework:
国際的な枠組み

greenhouse-gas emissions:
温室効果ガス排出量

the latter half of:
〜の後半

interim:
暫時的、一時的な

poll:
世論調査

media outlet:
報道機関

switch to:
〜に切り替える、転換する