

〈講 演〉

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われわれは地球とつながっている
—地球環境変化, 物質循環と SDGs—

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We Are Connected with the Earth
—Global Change, Material Cycles, and Sustainable Development Goals—

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Abstract

In the past few years, the temperature in Japan has exceeded 40 degrees Celsius, and it has become a life-threatening situation that goes beyond skin health. While there has been no precipitation for a long time, there are many “highest observation history” phenomena, and abnormal weather such as severe flood damage is occurring frequently. The pandemic of the new coronavirus is partly related to deforestation due to population growth, and there is a possibility that permafrost will thaw due to global warming and past and unknown viruses will appear.

The warning has been done for quite long, but economic development has been prioritized and it has reached a crisis. Regarding global warming, the Kyoto Protocol was adopted at COP3 in 1997, and the Paris Agreement was agreed at COP21 in 2015. Regarding ozone depletion, the Montreal Protocol was adopted in 1987 and came into effect in 1989 faster than global warming. The production of CFCs decreased, and ozone depletion was suppressed. However, due to the increasing scattering of aerosols, the ultraviolet rays on the surface of the earth have stopped falling. In this way, the material cycle is interrelated, and it is necessary to understand the whole picture, not to solve it by reducing one substance.

In 1972, the United Nations Environment Program was established after the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment. In addition to the activities such as the international treaties mentioned above, SDGs consisting of 17 goals and 169 targets were adopted at the 2015 UN Summit. I hope “Healthy planet Healthy people” will be realized by thinking that “the surface of the earth is the skin and the atmosphere is the scent” and acting quantitatively, concretely and promptly at each level of individuals, groups, organizations, regions, countries, and the world.

Key words: global environmental change, global warming, ozone depletion, material cycle, SDGs.