



World Student
Environmental Network



STUDENTS' RECOMMENDATION

2018 WWS
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REVISIT IT

Global Summit Doshisha University, Kyoto, Japan 26th-30th August

Preamble

Environments consist of both nature and culture. Nature is everything that is not controlled by humans, and it is within nature that human beings live and establish their societies upon. Culture is what we humans have created from nature in order to enrich our lives. However, sometimes conflicts can occur between nature and culture. In order to come up with sustainable solutions for the *sybiosis of nature and culture*, this summit concentrated on three aspects: *Water, Disaster, and Science-Technology*, reflecting the intertwined relations between these aspects and nature and culture. These three aspects of a sustainable sybiosis closely relate to our daily lives and have undergone significant changes since the first World Student Environmental Network (WSEN) Global Summit was held at Doshisha University in 2008.

Proposals

We, the community of the WSEN 2018 Global Summit, propose that:

Governments should organize committees of local people to discuss water administration based on local hydrology and set water usage limits so that we human beings can raise awareness and solve water shortages.

When the government administrates water resources, individual person's demands cannot be fulfilled as the government cannot always understand the exact situation of each community. In order to tackle this issue, the government has to organize committees consisting of representatives, who are well informed about the local situations like the state of water basins in each community. In addition, committees can also establish an adequate set of water usage limits based on statistical calculations. Moreover, actions and policies such as imposing taxes when exceeding some limits can raise water awareness which is crucial to solving the challenge of water shortages.

Developed countries should not over-consume and developing countries should make good use of information acquired historically. Furthermore, global cooperation is necessary in order to prevent water contamination.

Developed countries should refrain from overconsumption of water since the manufacturing of such evokes water contamination and there should be more water processing facilities to prevent contaminants from entering the environment. Also developed countries should support developing countries in terms of education to reform the consciousness toward clean water and investment for improving water treatment technology. Developing countries will figure out original solutions to prevent water problems and solve current problems with valuable lessons from other countries. Moreover, their original solutions can also be lessons for other countries.

Leaders should provide “disaster communication” in order to successfully raise the self-awareness of disasters.

Disaster is the interaction between hazards and social vulnerability. Thus, *leaders* such as policy-makers and academia are those who should communicate with the public about their social vulnerabilities. “Disaster communication” consists of professional scientific knowledge about disasters and the ability to explain it understandably to citizens, such as simulating experience of hazards. It aims to help citizens become more aware of disasters' threats, and motivate citizens to prepare themselves for disasters.

Citizens should utilize acquired information and raise their self-awareness of disasters, make voluntary efforts to spread their self-awareness to others and go beyond cultural boundaries when cooperating with others.

When a hazard strikes citizens, each of them must protect themselves. Therefore, it is most important to first become self-aware of disasters. Then, citizens should look for updated information about disasters and make use of information provided by leaders. At last, to make strong communities against disasters, citizens with self-awareness and voluntariness should share information augmented by their own experiences and ideas with other individuals of various communities.

Humanity should be aware of the inevitable duality of science-technology like environment destruction and endeavor to utilize it responsively, sustainably and productively to contribute to social progress.

Science-technology has become the core driver of society development. However, technology's duality is a vast challenge. For example, Artificial Intelligence (AI) is efficient and powerful to enhance productivity. However, if AI is monopolized, the benefits cannot be equally distributed to everybody. Information Technology (IT) like virtual reality (VR) can promote and revitalize culture while VR can also decrease the number of people who engage in real life. Thus, to avoid the negative consequences of technology's duality, humanity needs to develop and manage technologies for the common good cooperating non-exclusive with each other.

Humanity should endeavor to come up with more efficient and environmentally friendly energy generation methods so that disruptive production and consumption can be prohibited.

Energy production varies across different countries, however direct or indirect fossil fuel dependency is an enormous common challenge. However, the alternative energy we consider as a solution contains a number of problems as well. For example, the loss of electricity generated by clean energy during power transmission is massive and power plants can harm local ecosystems. To solve this, we can apply more intelligent technologies such as AI to research, development and management of energy generation in the future.

Conclusion

From our proposals above, we recognized that sharing information is the most important. When distributing information, we human beings should be supportive advisors instead of authoritarian commanders. When we receive information, we should be critical processors rather than passive receptors. Eventually, we will engineer sustainable solutions which will contribute to the *sybiosis of nature and culture*.

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