

The report for the forum

Akiko Kodama
Aoyama Gakuin University

Hello everyone, my name is Akiko Kodama from Aoyama Gakuin University in Japan. Firstly, I am very glad to see you, everybody, here, at Belgorod State Technological University named after V.G.Shokhov. I'd like to express my thanks to the university and all the people who support this forum.

By the way, I have a question to Russian people: which words do you think are very popular right now in Japan? It is not by accident, but I can say that one of them is "Ecology". The word "ecology" is not only for academic usage, or for government and companies, but also for ordinary people like us, students. For example, when I go to supermarket to buy food, I bring my own bag to put food in to avoid being given plastic bags. Or when my father chooses his car or my mother buys her household electrical appliance for kitchen, they prefer "kind to the earth" ones. These are also "ecology". Of course, we have our own "ecology" in Japan. As you know (because now I heard that Japanese food is popular in Russia), we, Japanese, usually use chopsticks when we eat Japanese traditional food. At home, each member of family has own chopsticks made of wood traditionally. But when we eat out at restaurant or eat a lunch box, we often use disposal chopsticks. We eat food with them, and just throw them away. They are used only once. So, now in Japan, especially for working women, bringing "my own chopsticks" with them is popular sometimes as fashion.

In those ways, I can say that "ecology" is being already around us, and I believe it can be created by us from our new idea according to our own lifestyle. It is sure that, these days people in the world are becoming interested in environmental problems. At international conferences also, environmental problems can be often a top issue. Besides, between governments, we have an important protocol like Kyoto Protocol. Also, on a commercial basis, global companies which work on environmental problems are much more evaluated. However, we, university students, don't always have to think about it on such a large scale. Like "my own chopsticks" in Japan, they might be created from own indigenous lifestyle. Environmental problems are regarded not only as global issue, but also as individual issue on this planet.

Then, how about in Russia? I am so interested in it, but I know something is changing better. 3 years ago when I discussed environmental problems with Russian students, I noticed that Russian people's interest in those issues was not so big compared with

Japanese people's ones. But, last year I lived in Moscow for a year, I was surprised to see little changes. I often saw a special machine in Moscow city. That was a recycling machine for empty can. If you throw cans to this machine, you can get some money, I guess. Of course it is not well known to people in Moscow, but I saw a man actually used this machine. Moreover, during a year plastic bags became charged at near supermarket. I had never thought I would use "my own bag" for ecology in Russia. Therefore, now I can say it is a big change in Russia, not only in government's or companies' effort but also on daily life, we can see the "ecology".

And tomorrow, right here, we can talk about it with Russian students. We don't have to think about it on a too large scale, but I hope from tomorrow, from here, the Belgorod Technological University, something will change us. I am looking forward to having a good discussion tomorrow.

Thank you for listening.